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BULLETIN ISSUED IN PANAMA ON CONTADORA MEETING

PA170224 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Apr 85 pp A 1, A 16

[Text] A bulletin issued by the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 April has advised that in response to a request made by the Central American foreign ministers during their meeting with their Contadora Group counterparts on 16 March in Brasilia a meeting of top-level plenipotentiaries was held in Panama City on 11-12 April.

In accordance with the call, the meeting was aimed at defining the mechanisms for verification and control of the Contadora Group's Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America, particularly with regard to security matters.

The proposed goals were satisfactorily fulfilled once the representatives of Central American governments defined their basic criteria for the adoption of pledges regarding the verification and control mechanisms.

The participants agreed to the creation of the following mechanisms, as proposed by the Contadora Group: 1) an ad hoc committee to evaluate and follow up pledges regarding political and refugee matters; 2) a verification and control committee for security matters; and 3) an ad hoc committee to evaluate and follow up pledges regarding economic and social matters.

The negotiated mechanisms guarantee the efficient, independent, and impartial conditions that have always been sought by the Contadora Group.

Likewise, it was stressed that these agreements reflect the respect for the principles of nonintervention in the international matters of the states, the self-determination of peoples, and the peaceful solution of the controversies on which these peacemaking efforts have focused since the group was created in January 1983.

The achievements of this meeting prove that Contadora is the adequate forum for the handling of the Central American situation, and they represent noteworthy progress in the negotiation of the Contadora Document. This means that during the next meeting, which is scheduled for early May, the matters pending may be discussed with a renewed constructive spirit, beginning with an examination of the suggestions offered by the Contadora Group.

In conclusion, the participants expressed their appreciation to Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta and Panamanian Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze Fabrega, who in turn expressed their pleasure over the fruitful results of the meeting. They also reiterated Panama's determination to continue promoting, together with Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela, the process of understanding among the Central American countries within the framework of the rules and principles of international law.

Document on Verification

PA172151 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] The Governments of Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador today presented a document on the security verification and control mechanisms which they seek in order to enforce the Contadora Document. This mechanism will be under a permanent committee that will control the issue of arms and troops in the Central American area. The three governments have insisted on the creation of such a framework, and, as they stated before the United Nations and others, the purpose of the initiative is to ensure that Nicaragua will fulfill the dispositions of the Contadora Document.

OAS CHIEF URGES SOLIDARITY, COOPERATION

FL121720 Bridgetown CANA in English 1615 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] Washington, April 12, CANA -- Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States (OAS) Joao Clemente Baena Soares today urged Caribbean and Latin American countries to pursue dialogue in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation toward solving the region's problems. His comments were made in a message to mark Pan American Day, Sunday, which will be the 95th anniversary of the founding of the OAS.

Baena Soares' message read: Today we commemorate Pan American Day, a fitting occasion to meditate on hemispheric cooperation and solidarity. I had the honor to address the heads of state and ministers of foreign affairs of the countries of the organisation on this subject.

Our American community of nations faces a challenge after almost a hundred years of the founding of the institution which later [passage indistinct] in our hemisphere. The will to find a peaceful solution to controversies also seems to be growing stronger.

We are also in a position of optimistically witnessing that along with the advancement of democracy, there is greater respect for human rights. Within a pluralistic political context the OAS charter shows a fundamental commitment to democracy.

Concerning development, there is a need to identify new areas and new methods of cooperation. It is clear that the coming century will use the science of information as a basis for development. I think this is one of the subjects that OAS agencies could take up with great interest. The OAS can be instrumental in making the new technology of the developed countries available to the developing ones, while simultaneously protecting their cultural heritage.

This Pan American Day must compel us to search for a dialogue in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation. We have the appropriate forum for carrying on a frank and fruitful exchange. We hope that this may be a memorable year for the modernization of the OAS. In this way our dreams of peace and prosperity may become reality.

OAS TO SEEK GREATER ACCESS TO U.S. SUGAR MARKET

FL162014 Bridgetown CANA in English 1901 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Washington, April 16, CANA -- The secretary general of the Organization of American States (OAS), Joao Clemente Baena Soares, was formally asked today by Latin American and Caribbean countries to pursue with the United States the question of great access for the region's sugar exports.

Many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are watching these efforts. It would not be exaggerating to say that part of their internal stability depends on the successful outcome of this mission, said Bolivian Ambassador Fernando Salazar Paredes. He is the chairman of the Special Committee on Consultation and Negotiation (CECON) that has been studying the matter within the OAS.

CECON's meetings on the sugar question remain open pending the results of Baena Soares' discussions with U.S. authorities that were described as of particular importance to inter-American relations. Baena Soares, upon receving the formal mandate from Salazar Paredes, promised to dedicate my best efforts in search of a satisfactory solution to the situation caused by the crisis in the sugar industry.

The Bolivian ambassador emphasized that the sugar industry in Latin America and the Caribbean is experiencing one of its worst crises, with the price of sugar at its lowest point in 14 years and the volume sold on the U.S. market at nearly half that of five years ago. The value of sugar exports from the Caribbean and Latin America to the United States, the region's principal market, has fallen from U.S. 1.347 billion dollars in 1981 to approximately 460 million dollars this year. On occasions such as this one, declared Salazar Paredes, it is necessary to remind ourselves that co-existence among peoples, peace, and security among nations also depend on the effective realization of the principles of solidarity in the economic and social fields as well.

When CECON began its deliberations on the sugar issue last week, Baena Soares said that the question should be dealt with in the OAS. He urged the region and the United States to jointly define a truly inter-American sugar policy, with reciprocal benefits, that serves to strengthen the economic structures of the region's developing countries as well as the commercial flows within the hemisphere.

AREA SOCIAL DEMOCRACY ON REGIONAL CRISIS

PA111710 San Jose NICARAGUA HOY in Spanish 30 Mar 85 p 4 D

[Resolution issued by the Central American Social Democracy, Sodeca, at a meeting in San Jose on 24 March]

[Text] Meeting in an extraordinary session in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 24 March 1985, the Sodeca, based on what was expressed in our charter entitled "Social Democratic Declaration of Panama" dated 4 September 1983, states:

1. Due to Central America's grave political, economic, social, and cultural crisis, the weak bases of our institutions are being extremely shaken by violence, anarchy, terrorism, militarism, and economic stagnation.

2. That situation plus the traditional limitations derived from our shortage of resources compose a severe picture of social disorder to which the greatest individual and collective efforts must be applied for a solution.

3. In addition to the previously mentioned factors, Central America finds itself in an increasingly more dramatic situation in which the Central Americans supply the blood and the large powers supply the weapons.

4. To date, the truly social democratic movements have not had their own means of expression. The Socialist International mistakenly supports political systems of ideologies that are very different and even adverse to social democratic principles. An example of this is the support that the Socialist International gives to the FDR-FMLN of El Salvador and the FSLN of Nicaragua, movements that are totally controlled by Marxism-Leninism, and to movements that are far from adhering to democratic principles such as the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) of Panama.

Therefore, we promise to undertake every effort to achieve political objectives that are in line with the principles of the social democratic ideology.

As a result of this, Sodeca has the imperative obligation of struggling against all types of dictatorships and totalitarianisms in order to establish an integral democracy in the region that will permit us to enjoy freedom and social justice within a legal state that will benefit the majority.

San Jose, Costa Rica, 24 March
Sodeca

CAPITAL CITIES UNION TO CREATE FINANCIAL AGENCY

FL172313 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2305 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Representatives from 21 Ibero-American countries today decided to create a financial agency similar to the EEC to avoid the postponement of their countries' development programs, it has been reported here.

Manuel Ortuno, secretary general of the Union of Capital Cities (UCCI), said on the first day of the organization's second plenary assembly that they are seeking with such a credit institution to support member nations' social programs. Interviewed after the opening ceremony, the leader asserted that each member country will contribute a set amount to establish the Ibero-American financing agency fund. He said credits will be requested from the IDB, IMF, and ECLA. The cities are facing economic problems, he added. This is why this financial group is needed, and it will also be an alternative for those capital cities who have a foreign debt, he explained. He acknowledged that capital cities of the 21 UCCI countries are facing serious economic difficulties in meeting their needs.

Lisbon's Mayor Nuno Krus Abecasis said UCCI President Enrique Tierno Galvan's proposal had been accepted and it will solve the capital cities' problems. He said the credit channeled to the cities will be based on their economic capabilities, that is, it will be granted only if payment is totally guaranteed and indebtedness can be avoided. The Portuguese official added that, in this way, the possibility will be prevented of the future financing agency going bankrupt. He acknowledged that some municipalities have not exploited all their resource possibilities. Cities should create businesses to produce income, continue their development programs, and expand their public services.

Maria Esther de Miguel, a Buenos Aires representative, said that with the establishment of the financing agency, the cities will be able to function independently and continue their programs. She added that this type of meeting allows an exchange of experiences that create new alternatives which help boost their countries' development.

MEXICAN BANK DIRECTOR ON AREA FOREIGN DEBT

FL131656 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1525 GMT 13 Apr 85

[Text] Guadalajara, Mexico, 13 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The solution to the Latin American crisis is far away; therefore, its recovery will be slow and painful, Miguel Mancera Aguayo, Bank of Mexico general director has said. At the 40th meeting of Latin American and Spain Central Bank governors being held in Guadalajara, 600 km west of Mexico City, the official said the renegotiation of the foreign debt of Latin American countries is not the solution to its economic problems.

Mancera Aguayo underscored that the world economy is going through a difficult stage inasmuch as interest rates hold unprecedented levels, the protectionist tendencies continue, and the foreign debt payment capabilities of some developing countries are still fragile. He called upon world banks to assume a constructive attitude in refinancing Latin American foreign debts and for multinational organizations to increase their support of regional development because the Latin American countries' problems cannot be solved in an adverse international climate. Likewise, he said the industrialized countries should actively contribute to this through the elimination of their own structural imbalances and the creation of congruent policies which will lead to a generalized economic recovery.

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED BY SPANISH DAILY

PM171320 Madrid ABC in Spanish 14 Apr 85 pp 24-25

[Interview with President Raul Alfonsin by Jose Alejandro Vera in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Text] Buenos Aires -- "Relations with Spain have undergone a substantial change and can be described as excellent," President Raul Alfonsin said in an interview granted to ABC a matter of hours before the king and queen were due to start their official visit. In Buenos Aires the visit is being described as highly significant and of great value.

"Argentina is experiencing the most serious crisis in its history but nothing and no one can put an end to our democracy because we have embarked on an irreversible process based on our experience of many years of horror which we will never forget," Alfonsin told ABC. Despite the almost irremediable economic crisis, the rumors of all kinds, the much discussed unrest within the Armed Forces, and the growing social dissatisfaction. Alfonsin gave assurances that "eventually many things will be forgotten, but history will record that we Argentines of this final portion of the eighties at last succeeded in establishing a democratic system"

[Vera] Argentina is now facing a very difficult economic situation, with galloping inflation and a foreign debt which seems impossible to contain. Does your government have solutions to these serious problems? Could the economic crisis ruin the nascent democracy?

[Alfonsin] Argentina is indeed facing a difficult economic situation at present, as you say. In fact it is the most serious crisis in our history. It is the "legacy" left us by the authoritarian regimes. When I acceded to government some of the indicators of the gravity of the situation were as follows: The proportion of private investments had fallen to 40 percent of the total, despite the fact that in the past the level was about 60 percent; as a result of the disorder which reigned in the financial system, speculative activities gradually replaced productive activities; the foreign debt reached over $40 million, equivalent to over 5 years' worth of exports, and the currency was destroyed, which meant that for 10 years Argentina had the world's highest inflation rate. As a consequence of all this, when we came to government the per capita income was 15 percent lower than in 1970.

Under such conditions one of the first measures was the reduction of the budget deficit, which was equivalent to 16.5 percent of the GNP and which we reduced to 8.5 percent in the first year. We are still doing our utmost to reduce it much more. A considerable effort was also made in connection with foreign trade, with good results, and in 1984 we achieved an exceptional balance of trade surplus equivalent to 6.5 percent of the GNP -- an outstanding figure not only for Argentina but for Latin America as a whole. On the other hand we have not had the hoped-for success in our struggle against inflation, whose level is still incompatible with the rational functioning of the economy. Measures to combat inflation are at the moment my government's chief priority. To this end we have adopted new measures designed to reduce public spending still further; we will proceed steadfastly in the privatization of enterprieses unnecessarily under state ownership; and we are carrying out a thorough financial and fiscal reform to combat speculation and evasion and to impart greater fairness and a sense of solidarity and social progress to the tax system.

We will defeat inflation and will take all the necessary measures to do so. As for the last part of your question, I state categorically that nothing and nobody can put an end to Argentina's democracy, because we have embarked on an irreversible process based on our experience of many years of horror and suffering, which the Argentine people will never forget.

[Vera] The trials of the members of the military juntas are due to start in a few days' time. All kinds of rumors, such as putschist conspiracies and possible amnesties, are circulating in the media. What is the truth about relations between the Radicals and the Armed Forces?

[Alfonsin] The national government, the ruling party, and I personally have always defended the nation's Armed Forces, which are a fundamental part of our validity as a sovereign country. On several occasions we have stressed the Armed Forces' contribution to the country and the example they set of an energetic lifestyle at the service of the nation's interests.

We in no way confuse the nation's Armed Forces with the leaders who violated the citizens' legal rights during the period of military government. So there is no reason for us to have any problem with the Armed Forces, though the judiciary must decide on the culpability or otherwise of the military juntas on trial. It would be impossible for the trial about to begin not to cause tension, but I am sure that this tension and the fact that officers may consider themselves slighted are part of the sacrifice which the vast majority of our officers will manage to endure with manly strength.

The workings of justice are something we will not relinquish, because if we did we would not only be irreparably undermining the law but also insulting the Armed Forces themselves. Investigations and the apportioning of legal responsibilities are entirely a matter for the judiciary. In Argentina we function fully as a constitutional state and all the institutions function without restrictions. These facts permit us entirely to reject the possibility of any kind of regressive move.

[Vera] Argentina has regained its traditional prestige in international forums. Your recent visits to India and the United States seem to have been fruitful. What are your government's main foreign policy objectives?

[Alfonsin] You have highlighted a very important point -- our commitment to rebuilding Argentina's prestige within the international community. I believe we have achieved reasonable results, though we are not unaware that it is a task that must continue and that will demand further efforts and dedication from us. You asked me about the objectives of our foreign policy. I would say that they derive from the pressing demands that this era makes on our country and the entire world -- Latin American solidarity, which must become the driving force to support the present and build the future of the region; the consolidation of inter-American dialogue and cooperation; the role of the Nonaligned Movement; and real and new cooperation between the EEC and Latin America.

[Vera] Will there be negotiations with London to try to surmount the present impasse over the Malvinas problem?

[Alfonsin] Argentina's democratic government has repeatedly stated its desire to resume negotiations with the UK in the quest for a final solution to the conflict that separates the two nations. If there is an impasse I believe it is obvious that it is not our fault, but the result of continuing British stubbornness with regard to negotiations broaching all the disagreements between our two countries without giving undue importance to or excluding any of the matters in dispute. My government has publicly announced its decision to resume a dialogue with an open agenda with the UK as soon as the latter expresses its willingness to do the same.

[Vera] Does Argentina aspire to becoming a kind of Latin American interlocutor for the United States? Do you aspire to the leadership of the nonaligned countries?

[Alfonsin] We believe that while the dialogue among the Latin American countries is of prime importance since we share the same blueprint and are affected by the same basic problems, the dialogue between these countries and the United States must be approached with the same commitment. In this connection, and on the basis of these premises, Argentina considers it encouraging and very valuable that its capacity for dialogue with Washington is becoming increasingly fluid, reliable, and profound. We believe that it is necessary for all countries of the region to develop such a dialogue. We have always believed that the bringing together of the opinions of this hemisphere will enhance the chances of finding joint solutions.

As for the leadership of the Nonaligned Movement, it is not a matter of aspiration. The member countries decide which nation is to exercise it. What I do aspire to is Argentina's active and frank involvement in the Nonaligned Movement, which we consider essential to international understanding.

[Vera] Are you worried about the result of the general elections to be held in November? The Radicals seem to have suffered a major erosion during their first 18 months in government. At least this is what opinion polls indicate.

[Alfonsin] The government is concerned with governing. The next general elections will provide a confirmation that Argentina has begun to follow the democratic path with resolute steps. As for the Radicals' alleged erosion, I assume it could be the logical effect of the government's action, though I must remind you that the findings of opinion polls still show majority support for the party which came to power with 52 percent of the votes less than 18 months ago. But my prime concern is the consolidation of Argentina's democracy. Eventually many things will be forgotten, but history will record that we Argentines of this latter part of the eighties at least succeeded in establishing a democratic system.

[Vera] What is the present status of relations between Buenos Aires and Madrid? How do you view the visit by the king and queen of Spain?

[Alfonsin] The status of relations between Buenos Aires and Madrid can be described as excellent. Since our country's return to democracy relations with Spain have undergone a very substantial change which can be considered very favorable in both the political and the cultural fields, though it remains inadequate in the economic and trade fields, due in part to our present balance of payments. Agreement has been reached on many issues, such as Central America, human rights, disarmament, peace, Gibraltar, the Malvinas, North-South relations, apartheid, and the Nonproliferation Treaty.

The visit by the king and queen is a further example of the excellent relations and close ties between our countries. It will help to further our personal acquaintance, which began during my visit to Spain last June.

Talks to Journalists

PY171449 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin today emphasized that the nation's democracy is facing no difficulties at all as far as stability and longevity goes. He acknowledged that the country is going through difficult economic and political circumstances which will cause tension but democracy in our country is not at stake. This was Alfonsin's answer to Spanish journalists who asked, among other things, whether he felt that Argentina is currently encountering particularly serious obstacles, especially in connection with economic affairs and the upcoming trials of military officers.

The press conference took place this afternoon in the White Hall in Government House and Alfonsin was accompanied by presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez and Public Information Secretary Emilio Gribaja.

Alfonsin denied that the political picture had deteriorated, stressing that this is the claim by leaders of certain political parties that received 1 or 2 percent of the votes in the elections and by General Juan Carlos Ongania who banned all political parties when he overthrew the constitutional regime.

Regarding Spain's becoming a member of the EEC, Alfonsin said that we would hope that this will bode well for Latin America. We are sure that Spain will provide the voice which will allow us to be heard better than we have been so far. Alfonsin added that as you all know our foreign trade is being clearly discriminated against by the EEC, and Argentina is experiencing an agricultural crisis mostly as a result of the EEC policies. He went on to say that it costs the EEC approximately $2,500 to produce a ton of meat while it costs us $1,200. However, the EEC outbids us at international tenders held by other countries by offering its meat at $1,000 per ton. Thus, it is not only a matter of being unable to market our products but also the fact that we are losing markets in other countries to unfair competition.

He also said that the policy of subsidies which both the United States and the EEC follow has led to a decline of between 20 and 25 percent in the international grain price. This is what we have to fight against, that is, a worsening of the terms of trade which goes against universal justice. This is the reason for our quest for a new international economic order through a dialogue which would be beyond the East-West conflict to deal with the North-South problem.

Alfonsin was also asked about the status of the military officers at the trials which will begin shortly. He said that it is true that the trials are about to begin, adding that in Argentina there are some people who have tried to make one believe that the Armed Forces are in the dock, that the prestige of the Armed Forces is being undermined. This is absurd because the prestige of an institution can in no way be undermined by judging those who have led it astray. "Our responsibility is to protect the prestige of the Armed Forces and this prestige is tied to truth, justice, and especially to subordination to the political branches as set forth in the Constitution."

Alfonsin admitted the possibility of bringing before the courts all the persons listed in the Sabato report on tortures and indicated that "we have tried some military officers on our own, as I am commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and they are in prison now, but the courts of justice are open to anyone."

CAPUTO ON NUCLEAR ACCORD WITH PRC, OTHER ISSUES

PY171613 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1456 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (TELAM) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has asserted that the nuclear energy cooperation agreement signed with the PRC yesterday should fill us with pride, since there are not many countries in the world that have achieved our scientific and technological development. Caputo also said that the PRC authorities expressed coinciding points of view on the way we focus on the foreign debt problem.

The minister said that under this agreement, Argentina could grant technical aid to the PRC, since our technical development is more sophisticated than that of the PRC. Our decision to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes has allowed us to carry out research in the scientific and technical field, which is something that has not happened in the PRC.

During a telephone conversation from Beijing with Buenos Aires Radio Rivadavia, Caputo asserted that this agreement is a broad framework agreement that refers to nuclear energy plants, the fuel cycles, low-power reactors, training, transfer of technology, and other matters.

Caputo noted that any transfer of technology will be carried out under the full safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and that such a transfer will only be used for the peaceful development of nuclear energy.

The foreign minister noted that the agreement was negotiated very quickly since talks only started in late October. He added that it should be recalled that the PRC foreign minister visited Argentina in August, which is when we first brought up the subject. After that we made rapid progress. I would say that we started negotiations in November and ended them some 15 or 20 days ago. This is a very important step.

Caputo, who termed the PRC an emerging giant, said that all this reveals Argentine capacity to sell and market its technology, which is in fact one of the things we are interested in. He added that the text of the agreement will be disclosed very soon since it has no secret clauses. The text is very clear.

When he was asked whether he had discussed the Argentine foreign debt problem with the PRC authorities, the Argentine minister said that they talked about the way Argentina is handling the subject. The PRC representatives voiced coinciding points of view with our approach, that is, our determination to not only tackle the debt from the technical side but also from the political viewpoint.

Regarding the Malvinas issue, Caputo said that PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian was very clear in stating that, in the future, PRC would maintain unchanging support for Argentine claims. Caputo added that they had discussed the experience with Hong Kong at length. They told us about the philosophy of the negotiations and how they had tackled it. This philosophy could be summarized in the following phrase: Two systems and only one country, referring to the capitalist system prevailing in Hong Kong while Hong Kong's territory is integrated into the rest of the PRC. Undoubtedly there are some interesting points of view for us but they are two quite different situations.

When a comment was made on the length (45 minutes) of his meeting with Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang, Caputo answered: I think that there is great mutual interest. On one hand, we have some similar viewpoints in the international policy field, and I say some because we have two very different systems, two ideological regimes. Therefore, sometimes the coincidence of our points of view regarding certain international issues is surprising.

However, I think that as a consequence of this coincidence of views regarding international issues and the practical interests we share, the PRC regards Argentina as a country that has potential and interests that may contribute to the development of their own nation. I believe that the length of my meeting with the PRC prime minister was due to the PRC's desire to stress the importance they grant our country.

Regarding the sale of Argentine grain to the PRC, Caputo said that the PRC has achieved important developments in the agricultural field since, after suffering shortages, they have now become self-sufficient and even manage to produce a surplus. The PRC purchased wheat during the last two months of 1984 and the two first months of 1985, which is something we were not really counting on.

Minister Caputo added that we are exporting manufactured goods to them and, what is more important, that trade is increasing. Yesterday morning, while at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, we almost reached cooperation agreements in several fields and are analyzing others. I say cooperation agreements and not the mere exchange of merchandise, because we are analyzing the possibility of setting up joint enterprises.

The minister ended by stating: Basically we talked about agricultural products, agroindustries, freezing chambers, dairy farms, the processing of milk by-products, and a long list of other areas. Agreements in some of these areas have practically been reached and we are going to continue analyzing others this year.

More Details on Agreement

PY171432 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (NA) -- It was learned from official sources today that the technical cooperation agreement for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy that was signed by Argentina and China in Beijing yesterday will reportedly include the possiblity to jointly carry out the construction of nuclear plants and research reactors, the fabrication of fuel elements, and the exchange of information and scientists.

Sources indicated to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that the text of the agreement will publicly be released only after the document is sent to the IAEA in Vienna and the U.S. State Department.

The 12-article agreement is being kept in total secrecy by the Argentine and Chinese Governments for the reasons already mentioned, but the sources said there are "many similarities" with the agreement signed by Argentina and Brazil last year, especially in Article 2. The sources also denied foreign press reports indicating that the Chinese delegation which came to Argentina last year visited the enriched uranium production plant in Pilcaniyeu, Neuguen, where Argentina keeps its process an industrial secret. They explained that the agreement with Beijing does not yet involve any concrete projects, although there are several that could be carried out within a short time.

Although Argentina and Brazil signed a similar agreement last year, they have not yet carried out any joint projects within the framework of the agreement.

The agreement signed by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and his Chinese counterpart, Wu Xueqian, yesterday in China also reportedly include the production and application of radioisotopes, the study of nuclear security regulations, and the use of consultants. The agreement reportedly also includes the joint processing of minerals and uranium and cooperation in nuclear medicine.

China is a nuclear power, but it has no nuclear energy plants and has not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

NUCLEAR ASSOCIATION CONCERNED OVER FUNDS

PY171513 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1545 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (NA) -- The Argentine Association of Nuclear Technology expressed at noon today its "profound concern over the future of nuclear development" in Argentina and predicted "difficulties in continuing to work responsibly in this field." In a press communique released at noon today, the association, which includes professionals and private enterprises, warned that difficulties "can result from unrealistic budgets and the inadmissible delays in the transfer of funds."

This organization asked the government to prepare "a medium- and long-range realistic nuclear program" and to establish "control mechanisms to preserve the budget," among other requests.

The communique points out "the discrimination affecting the nuclear sector in the transfer of budget funds and the need to strictly enforce the budget." In conclusion, the communique says that "the nuclear sector can and should effectively contribute to the solution of the current economic problems and to especially prevent these problems from occurring again in the future."

ACTIVE DUTY GENERAL'S ARREST 'HELD IN ABEYANCE'

PY171722 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Apr 85 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) -- The arrest of a general on active duty was "held in abeyance" yesterday, at the same time that defence counsel for one of the nine military commanders accused of human rights' violations filed a court petition to clarify trial procedure and the "Legion Condor-Escuadra 33" resurfaced in Mar del Plata.

Chamical (La Rioja) Judge Hector Oyola admitted that the arrest of General Jose Malagamba, who is charged with the murder of two priests in 1976, was being "held in abeyance" pending ruling on the appeal lodged before the Armed Forces Supreme Court regarding his jurisdiction to try the case of the Army superiors. Oyola, while questioning the Army's attitude, said he was highly pleased with the Air Force's "respect for democratic institutions," upon receiving a telegram from Air Force Commander-in-Chief Brigadier Horacio Crespo saying retired Commodore Luis Estrella would appear in court to testify in the same case.

Defence counsel for former Navy Commander-in-Chief retired Admiral Jorge Anaya petitioned the Federal Court of Appeals to determine whether or not they would be allowed to cross-examine witnesses.

BRIEFS

NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE -- (NA) -- Education and Justice Minister Carlos Alconada Aramburu yesterday announced the executive branch's appointment of Doctor Jorge Bacque as a member of the Supreme Court of Justice, replacing former President General Carrio, who had resigned for health reasons. The minister stated Bacque's appointment had been sent to the Senate, and once this was approved, a plenary meeting of the Court members would elect their president. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Apr 85 p 11 PY]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA -- Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (TELAM) -- The Ethiopian Government has agreed to the appointment of Nicolas Adrian Sonschein as the new Argentine ambassador to Ethiopia. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1625 GMT 2 Apr 85 PY]

CORN SALE TO PERU -- Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (DYN) -- It has been officially reported that the National Grain Board has arranged the sale of 80,000 tons of corn to the Peruvian National Enterprise for Industrial Marketing. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1026 GMT 12 Apr 85 PY]

AERONAUTICS MINISTER ON MANEUVERS WITH U.S.

PY172045 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Aeronautics Minister Antonio Arnez made statements to the media regarding operations to be conducted in Bolivia with the support of U.S. troops and aircraft. These maneuvers involving tactical operations, mainly for paratroopers, will be conducted in late April and early May.

The aeronautics minister was justifying a series of aspects about these tactical maneuvers that have been named "Bol-USA II." We will now hear Antonio Arnez' statements about the Bolivian Air Forces' participation in these maneuvers and what these operations, to be carried out together with the U.S. Army and Air Force, represent:

[Begin recording] [Arnez] It all depends on the magnitude of the intended joint maneuvers, but I understand that they are low scale operations that will include operations of the [word indistinct] type with the support of some aircraft such as (?helicopters) for civil defense-military operations, evacuation procedures, rescue missions, whatever types of operations are deemed necessary according to plans.

[Reporter] Is the presence of the U.S. troops and aircraft in Bolivia a prerequisite for these tactical operations?

[Arnez] What may be necessary or not must be in keeping with the situations that may arise. But [words indistinct] that it is not an imposition of tactics of any type that is not in keeping with the country's interests. In sum, the scheduled "Bol-USA II" maneuvers are really for the training, evaluation, and practice of our military units, our professional officers, and to learn how to operate some of the modern operation systems available. Therefore, the maneuvers are in the interest of the Bolivian Armed Forces.

Now then, since the operations involve the United States it is quite likely that this will provoke some political zeal in some sectors. This type of operation is carried out throughout the hemisphere. Bolivia is not the only country to have them. Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, all the South American countries engaged in these types of maneuvers. [end recording]

AIR FORCE ACQUIRES TRAINING PLANES FROM FRANCE

PY180145 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Aeronautics Minister General Antonio Arnez Camacho, retired, has told Panamericana that 18 training planes and an important quantity of spare parts will be acquired for the Bolivian Air Force. He also said that the Netherlands has donated a Fokker plane to Lloyd Bolivian Airlines.

[Begin recording] As the public knows, all possible efforts have been made through the government for the acquisition of some training material from the French Government. The Air Force will be reinforced with 18 T-33 training planes. The first group should arrive in mid-May. The planes will be delivered in La Paz, but we have sent pilots and mechanics to make the overseas trip. The remaining groups should be arriving in July, August and September, to complete the delivery of the 18 units, and 6,000 spare parts plus 18 new engines. [end recording]

MNRI-1, ARENA SPLIT, CHOOSE CANDIDATES

MNRI-1 Nominates Carrasco

PY151801 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 85

[Excerpt] The Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left-One [MNRI-1], has nominated former Education and Culture Minister Carlos Antonio Carrasco as its presidential candidate. According to statements made by Francisco Figueroa, one of the top leaders of the MNRI-1, to Radio Panamericana, the decision was made during the first national MNRI-1 convention.

The MNRI-1, which is a splinter of the [word indistinct] party led by Siles Zuazo and [words indistinct] has nominated Carlos Antonio Carrasco as its presidential candidate for the elections scheduled for July. It seems that the negotiations between the MNRI-1 and the Nationalist Renewal Alliance [ARENA], have failed since Francisco Figueroa is not accepted and has no leverage at the National Congress.

ARENA Selects Calloja

PY151427 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 85

[Text] ARENA's presidential ticket is made up of Humberto Calloja Riart and Antonio (Quiquenupo). This information has been reported from Oruro by the Radio Panamericana correspondent there.

[Words indistinct] is in Oruro with the goal of rallying. The political leader has told Radio Panamericana that the ARENA has split from the MNRI-1 which is led by (Johnny) Mamani and Francisco Figueroa, because of the MNRI-1's indiscipline and irresponsibility.

[Begin report from Oruro by Radio Panamericana reporter] They split [words indistinct] the MNRI-1 because they considered the latter to be a party lacking discipline. The same decision [words indistinct] by the (?pro-Barrientos faction).

Therefore, according to General Calloja, ARENA [word indistinct] will now turn into a single force, something which will facilitate [word indistinct] in the elections scheduled for July with its own candidates. This information has been given to Radio Panamericana by Dr Antonio (Quiquenupo), an attorney born in Cochabamba and an outstanding [words indistinct], who has been officially nominated as ARENA's vice presidential candidate.

General Calloja has stated that we accept [words indistinct]. We have stated that such a debate must be held with dignity and speaking the truth [words indistinct], according to ARENA's presidential candidate.

[Begin Calloja recording] Good morning, Radio Panamericana. I want to make it clear that [word indistinct] General Banzer has extended an invitation to hold a debate [words indistinct]. After considering it with ARENA's National Political Council, we have accepted the invitation to a debate, which is to be held with proper dignity, but also with the purpose of telling the public the truth. [end recording] [end report]

DR PINOTTI GIVES WRAP-UP ON NEVES' TREATMENT

PY172040 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo in Portuguese 1900 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Report by Ricardo Rodrigues from Sao Paul Heart Institute -- live]

[Text] Right now Presidential Press Secretary Antonio Brito is introducing the medical team before Dr Walter Pinotti reads his report.

[Briton, overlapping Rodrigues] ...To provide the public and medical doctors with the details of the treatment being administered to the president of the Republic.

This report has been delayed by the difficulties that have arisen over the last few days. Professor Pinotti and the medical team believe that today they can release the report that was promised some days ago.

Therefore, Professor Dr Henrique Walter Pinotti, head of the medical team treating the president of the Republic, will now read a report on the measures taken and on the treatment being administered to the president of the Republic.

[Pinotti] In my capacity as the head of the medical team treating His Excellency, the president of the Republic, Tancredo Neves, I deem it important to provide some information jointly with Professor Dr Joao Baptista Rezende Alves. This information, to be added to the previous medical bulletins, may clarify, for the public, the president's clinical condition, and the treatment being administered to him.

It is important to recall that on the evening of 14 March, President Tancredo Neves was admitted to the Brasilia Distric General Hospital, where he underwent his first emergency operation at the hands of Dr Francisco Pinheiro da Rocha. The operation was aimed at solving an acute condition and a benign condition of the small intestine, which confirmed the existence of an infection.

On 20 March, because of postoperative problems, the president was again operated on under our responsibility, with the help of Dr Pinheiro da Rocha and Professor Joao Rezende Alves. In this operation, (?infected) intestinal adherences were (?removed), a decompressive jejunostomy was done, and the abdominal wall was rebuilt. The course of this second operation went reasonably well and it allowed us to make prospects about the release of the patient from the hospital. However, an unexpected acute and intense bleeding in the intestines required that, on 26 March, the patient be rushed to Sao Paulo. This trip was made possible by the efforts of government authorities.

Thanks to the efficient work of Professor Guilherme Rodrigues da Silva, the Clinical Hospital superintendent, and to the full cooperation of Professors (Juvel Pinade) and Adib Jateme, the president was admitted to the Heart Institute of the Sao Paulo University School of Medicine. Here, with more technical resources, efforts were made to locate the precise origin of the bleeding.

The scintillographic diagnosis was made by Dr (Ivaldo Camargo) and the arteriographic diagnosis by Dr Sergio Lima. The attempt to stop the hemorrhage through the administration of medicines in the bleeding artery close to the ileum failed. The president was then submitted to a new operation under general anesthesia administered by Professor Rui Gomide do Amaral. A bleeding artery was located at the site of the intestinal suture made during the first operation.

The part that included this suture and that [word indistinct] was removed. This operation again revealed a persisting infection on the abdominal wall. Following this finding, broad and uninterrupted clinical and laboratory research was conducted on the infection and on the patient's immunological system. This research has been coordinated by Professor Vicente Amatto Netto and his team.

Infections were located and bacteria identified at the venous catheter that had been used to replenish the supply of liquids and nutrients, and in the material drained from the surgical incision.

The president is recovering nicely from this operation, as far as the abdomen is concerned. The president was fed orally on the third day after the operation, because there had been bowel movement.

On 2 April, because of an irreversible obstruction in an intestinal loop caused by an inguinal hernia he had on his left side for some 30 years, the president was subjected to another operation. On that occasion, it was noted that there was a small amount of pus at the herniated sac despite the previous intense search for infections performed through appropriate methods.

In the days to follow, the signs of infection became more serious with fever, higher respiratory and pulse rates, hypertension, periferic vasoconstriction, and cyanosis.

Clinical, laboratory, scintillographic, and ultrasonographic exams were repeatedly performed in a permanent search for new infections.

On 4 April, Dr (Giovanni Serri) spotted two abdominal abscesses through sonograms. The abscesses were immediately drained through two small surgical incisions. After this operation, taking into account that it was increasingly difficult to maintain the patient's spontaneous respiratory function, it was necessary to provide respiratory maintenance support through an oral-tracheal tube and a respirator.

Two days later, as the bacteremia symptom had not been eliminated, a team of radiology department specialists headed by Professor Alvaro de Almeida Magalahes performed a computerized tomography, a scintillographic test, and an abdominal sonogram at the clinical hospital's central institute. As the exams did not reveal the existence of new infections, it was decided to continue with the clinical treatment that had been administered to the president to fight the infection.

The repeated bacteremia crises have affected the president's respiratory system, in which substantial lung interstitial liquid infiltration was detected.

On 9 April, because of the need to continue the use of the respirator for an extended period, a tracheotomy was performed under local anesthesia to facilitate the cleaning of the respiratory channels, improve the functionings of the lungs, and make the patient more comfortable and mobile.

On 11 April, after 44 hours without fever, an indication that the infections may have been receding, the president again showed signs of infection.

Since the scintillographic and ultrasonographic tests that were being performed daily gave no precise indication of the location of the new infections, a decision was made to perform a new operation on 11 April. This decision was made on the basis of clinical criteria and laboratory exams. The operation was performed to examine and clean the abdominal cavity.

Three small abcesses deeply imbedded in the abdomen were found and drained. At the same time, we proceeded to clean out the infected tissues on the abdominal wall, and a plastic prothesis was placed to protect the peritoneal cavity and to promote the cicatrization of the wall.

As far as the infections are concerned, summing up, we can say that the patient, when he arrived in Sao Paulo, showed candidiasis of the upper intestinal tract, a pneumonic focus in the process of regression, and an infection in the area of the surgical incision. In the abcesses that were found, three types of microorganisms were present: enterobacter cloacae, actinomyces Israelii, and actinobacillus actinomycete comitans. Very likely, these microorganisms along with other factors were the cause of the bacteremia crisis, the presence of these bacteria at the beginning of the endogenous ileointestinal infection was detected in the intraperitoneal focuses.

The permanent bacteriological and immunological support was considered effective. It should be emphasized that the clinical record regarding the presence of infection in the president's body shows that the infection was present before the first surgical operation. Considering that the president carried a previous infection which became acutely complicated by the formation of abcesses, the first operation was classified as an infected case, and this brought about the development of new infectious focuses, despite all the technical care administered by our colleagues in Brasilia.

On the other hand, in addition to the endogenous infection, the possibility of a worsening of the process due to an overlap by an infection that occurred in the hospital cannot be discarded. These hospital-acquired infections can occur in any hospital in Brazil or abroad. Our medical team believes that, the original infection may have been worsened by the following factors: First, a delay in the hospitalization of the patient; second, circumstances related to the patient's age; and third, the hemorraghic episode that contributed to the weakening of his body.

As the result of the repeated onsets of bacteremia and the need for fluid restriction to allow pulmonary recover, the patients's kidneys began to suffer consequences that demanded the adoption of rigorous therapeutic measures, such as, hemodialysis and ultrafiltration, which were performed by the nephrology team of the Clinical Hospital under the supervision of Professor Marcelo Marcondes.

The valuable cooperation of the various departments of the medical complex of the Medical School of the University of Sao Paulo has been necessary, and special mention must be made of the cooperation of the colleagues of the surgical clinic specializing on digestive apparatus under my chairmanship, of the colleagues of the urology clinic, the periferic vascular surgery clinic, and the neurology clinic, as well as of the cardiology pneumology, epidemiology, and intensive care unit of the Heart Institute.

The medical team, along with a team of nurses, is working full time, and include physiotherapists, nutritionists, laboratorians, and psychologists. All of them are working in an harmonious manner, with utmost dedication, and concienciousness of the heavy responsibility they have assumed. On the other hand, technical resources of the Heart Institute and the Clinical Hospital, which are comparable to those existing in the most modern and sophisticated institutions in the world, have been put into action by those who are in charge of these highest ethical and operational standards.

Up until relatively recent times, medical science did not have the necessary surgical and therapeutic resources to be successful in complex cases, such as the one President Tancredo Neves developed. Thanks to the great advances of medical science, the therapeutics, the surgical methods, and the new equipment, the president has survived despite his serious clinical condition and well-known difficulties; he still maintains prospects for a full recovery.

The clinical evaluative examinations permit us to say that the patient's neurological functions have been preserved, and that no sequelae are to be feared in that area. There are no signs of irreversible lesions in any of the patient's organs. The process of sedation makes it possible for President Tancredo Neves to cope with his difficulties without experiencing pain.

However, we do not intend to minimize the seriousness of the case at this time. Well, all the colleagues on the team, with the support of the Neves family, are seeking artificial means that can yet permit the recovery of the patient. It is important to make it clear to the public that we cannot expect quick results. We most likely have ahead of us a prolonged and delicate period of treatment. Therefore, it is our duty to persist, with all determination, in the search for a full recovery of President Tancredo Neves. Thank you very much.

ACTING PRESIDENT NOT PLANNING CABINET CHANGES

PY171703 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Report from Brasilia by Carlos Rodriques]

[Text] Acting President Jose Sarney is not planning any cabinet changes. Thus the news which has been circulating in this regard are groundless. This is what Sarney's spokesman Fernando Cesar Mesquita told the press here in Brasilia today at Sarney's request. Mesquita also reported that as of today the chief of the Militry Household General Rubens Bayma Denys, chief of the National Intelligence Service General Ivan de Souza Mendes and, chief of the Civilian Household Jose Hugo Castelo Branco will hold frequent meetings with reporters at the press room of Planalto Palace to brief them about government affairs.

Vows To Keep Neves' Promises

PY180338 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0242 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Report by (Djalmo Fornari) from Sao Paulo]

[Text] Acting President Jose Sarney arrived at Congonhas Airport at 1930 and immediately headed for the Heart Institute to visit President Tancredo Neves. Sarney was accompanied by Governor Franco Montoro, Chamber of Deputies President Ulysses Guimaraes, and several ministers. Sarney arrived at the hospital at 1944 and stayed there until 2040. He then went to the Segio Cardoso Theater to open the Brazilian Writers Congress, where he was received with warm applause.

In a speech delivered before the congress, Acting President Sarney on several occasions stressed that all the commitments that President Tancredo Neves made in public rallies during his electoral campaign are now his own commitments and will remain so to the last day of his presidential term.

[Begin recording] All of us deplore the absence of he who would have spoken for all of us today and who would have secured our autonomy, that extraordinary statesman, Tancredo Neves. [applause]

We still recall his words at the public rallies through which the country recovered its democratic freedoms. Nothing would be more fair and opportune than to reaffirm now that the commitments assumed by Tancredo Neves are our own commitments. [applause] [end recording]

The entire audience, including the ministers, stood up and greeted this statement with a standing ovation.

After the opening ceremony, the president returned to Brasilia. At no time did he grant any interview to the press.

METALWORKERS, REJECT PROPOSAL STRIKE CONTINUES

PY171321 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpt] One more day of negotiations and yet another proposal for reconciliation have been wasted. According to our correspondent Newton Flora, the metalworkers strike will move into its second week.

[Begin Flora recording] After a lengthy reconciliation hearing at the regional labor court, the Group of the 14 [industrialists] did not arrive at any agreement with the group of independent metalworkers and a conciliatory proposal of the court was rejected. [end recording]

LATE REPORT: NEVES' CONDITION DETERIORATING

PY181500 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1437 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Live report of medical bulletin on Brazilian President Tancredo Neves read by Presidential Press Secretary Antonio Brito from the Sao Paulo Heart Institute]

[Text] I will now read the medical bulletin just released by the medical team treating President Tancredo Neves. The medical bulletin reads as follows:

The medical team treating President Tancredo Neves, headed by Dr Henrique Walter Pinotti, has issued the following information:

In view of the persistence of the infectious process and its inherent organic repercussions, the president's health has again deteriorated during the past few hours.

New alterations in his circulatory system and hemodynamic decompensation have been observed since 0300. His circulatory functions are being controlled by the medicines. Alterations of the lung functions have increased even more so and are now demanding a greater supply of oxygen.

The president is now undergoing a new hemodialysis treatment.

Sao Paulo, 18 April 1130

Signed: Henrique Walter Pinotti and Joao Baptista Rezende de Alves.

Thank you.

FOREIGN MINISTRY LABELS U.S. POSITION 'VALID'

PY171840 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has labeled as valid the U.S. position on the transition to democracy in Chile. In this regard, Langhorne Motley, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said that Washington would like to see the implementation of measures established in the 1980 Constitution for a democratic transition in 1989. Foreign Ministry spokesman Marcelo Padilla has said that Motley can attest to the real Chilean situation because he was recently in Chile and his opinion seems very valid to us.

[Begin Padilla recording] He can attest to our real situation because he was recently in Chile and his opinion seems very valid to us. [end recording]

He reiterated that although the U.S. position is already known, Chile must move ahead to a democratic transition. He also called on the Chilean opposition not to discard the 1980 Constitution because it can be a good basis to start a dialogue with the government. Then we can see what changes can be made if necessary. He said that efforts should be made to begin a dialogue, emphasizing that the Constitution was approved in a plebiscite.

OPPOSITION GROUPS CALL FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

PY171545 Paris AFP in Spanish 0020 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 16 Apr (AFP) -- Chilean opposition members, grouped under a united movement of democratic intransigence, today made a broad call to the political parties to promote civil disobedience against the government of General Augusto Pinochet. Sixteen leaders, ranging from the republican right to the outlawed Communist Party, have released a manifesto for freedom and democracy in which they urge the opposition to unite. Respecting the differences that legitimately exist between us, we want to be a symbol of the unity now prevailing among the people, the manifesto states. The manifesto adds that through this action all social and political organizations will be able to restore democracy in Chile and join a lasting and growing process of civil disobedience. We are and will be intransigently democratic. The Chilean people require and demand from all democrats, without any type of discrimination, the broadest national consensus, the leaders stated. The call was addressed to the three fronts in which the opposition is split, that is, the moderate Democratic Alliance, the Socialist Bloc, and the leftist Popular Democratic Movement (MDP). Several parties, which make up the above-mentioned coalitions, have signed the manifesto which, however, has not been endorsed by the Christian Democrats, one of the leading opposition forces. Among the signatories of the manifesto are Dr Fanny Pollarolo (MDP), jurist Manuel Sanhueza (Radical), and former Senator Rafael Agustin Gumucio (Christian left).

PRIEST'S MURDER CASE GOES TO MILITARY COURT

PY171331 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] The legal proceedings on the murder of Father Andre Jarland has been transferred to the military court. This decision was made by Judge Pedro Aguirre Cerca of the Third Appellate Court who said that the regular court has no jurisdiction to hear the French priest's murder case. The murder took place on 4 September 1984 in the La Victoria District. Policeman Leonel Poveda Quilodran, who has been indicted, is now free on bail after an investigation carried out by Judge Hernan Correa. [Words indistinct] the investigation must continue.

BETANCUR EXAMINES REAGAN PROPOSAL FOR NICARAGUA

Controversy Over Aid to Contras

PA172224 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Bogota -- The U.S.State Department harshly criticized Colombian President Belisario Betancur for saying that he did not know about the U.S. plans to aid anti-Sandinists and denied deceiving him regarding the U.S. peace proposal for Nicaragua (?presented) by President Reagan. The State Department criticized statements made by Betancur during an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES.

In his statements, Betancur said that the $14 million that President Reagan requested from the Congress for the anti-Sandinists rebels was not a peace proposal but a preparation for war. Betancur rejected the idea of foreign financing for Central America's conflicts. His statements to THE NEW YORK TIMES were immediately rejected by the State Department, which flatly denied deceiving Betancur.

Answering Betancur's statements, the U.S. State Department said: We gave President Betancur a full explanation of all aspects of President Reagan's peace initiative and, of course, we also supplied him with a written report. Betancur asserted that when he left the White House after he met with President Reagan he did not know that the assistance was conditioned to the renewed $14 million aid for the anti-Sandinist rebels.

Betancur admitted that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz handed him a copy of the plan, but that he did not have time to read it until much later. To refute Betancur, the State Department said: We were satisfied that President Betancur understood exactly what we had in mind.

Addresses Letter to Reagan

PA180251 Paris AFP in Spanish 2019 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Bogota, 17 Apr (AFP) -- Colombian President Bellisario Betancur confessed today that in regard to the U.S. peace proposal for Nicaragua, he is concerned over military aid to groups that oppose the Sandinist regime.

In an interview published by THE NEW YORK TIMES on Tuesday, Betancur said that he did not understand that the proposal made provisions for renewed assistance to the rebels known as "contras."

Today, the Colombian president disclosed the text of a letter he sent to President Ronald Reagan in which he clarifies his position and confirms that the U.S. proposal is positive, as far as the cease-fire is concerned. The press office at Narino Palace gave AFP a copy of the letter with a headline that summarized the gist of the message: "Betancur Clarifies Position Regarding Reagan Proposal."

Betancur opens his letter to Reagan by thanking the U.S. President for the hospitality he received during his visit to Washington, and states that the talks in the United States were "very useful." Betancur later responds to the letter from Reagan explaining the peace initiative for Nicaragua, including the possibility of a reconciliation dialogue between, the Sandinist government and the democratic opposition groups.

Betancur says that he supports the part of the letter that proposes a cease-fire, and that he supports the opening of a direct dialogue between the two sides. "I think this is positive and constructive," he said.

Betancur agrees with Reagan that within the Contadora Group's efforts "one of the objectives has been to achieve national reconciliation in those areas torn by internal conflict." "However, I am concerned over military aid to groups that oppose the Nicaraguan Government," Betancur admits.

He later reiterates that one of the bases of Inter-American Consuetudinary Law is the self-determination of peoples, nonintervention, and the peaceful solution of controversies. "These principles emerged in our hemisphere not by chance, but after many years and have become a basic part of the OAS Charter, which is our guide," he said. "These same principles are repeated in the Document for Cooperation and Peace in Central America proposed by the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela)," Betancur said.

He later informs Reagan of the advances made at the meeting of plenipotentiaries from the four Contadora countries and the five Central American countries who met in Panama on 11 and 12 April. "Some of the most serious obstacles to the negotiation process have been overcome. This demonstrates the political willingness of the Central American representatives to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflicts troubling the region," Betancur said.

He later said that "the Contadora Group continues its relentless aim of seeking peace" and adds that "in this regard we applaud your government's reiterated support for our effort." Betancur concludes by saying: "I hope that the bilateral talks in Manzanillo (Mexico) can be resumed between delegations of the Nicaraguan and U.S. Governments."

OFFICIALS SEIZE WEAPONS SHIPPED FROM MIAMI

PA162315 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Apr 85 p 2 A

[By Rafael Sarmiento and Celmira Figueroa]

[Excerpts] Barranquilla, 11 Apr -- A large number of rifles, carbines, and machine guns was seized today by custom authorities. The arms were in the Almagrario storehouse of the Agrarian Fund, the Agricultural-Livestock Marketing Institute, and the Livestock Bank, located on the road to Ernesto Cortissoz Airport. The arms cache, the size of which has not been established yet, was hidden in 45 wooden boxes that had arrived at the airport from Miami 5 days ago on a commercial flight. The merchandise was dispatched from Miami to a "Humberto Gonzelez." It has attached instructions that it was to be claimed be customs broker Adolfo Pernett Henriquez, who has already been located by the authorities.

The arms arrived hidden under electric home appliances (blenders, polishers, and so forth), toys, and Carrara marble. They were wrapped in thick synthetic rugs; all this was to avoid any suspicion.

The boxes were marked: "Humberto Gonzalez. Please notify Adolfo Pernett."

The commander of the customs detachment in this part of the country, Major Jorge Martinez, said that the shipment arrived at the airport 1 week ago and that it was searched today because neither the importer nor the custom brokers had arrived with the necessary documents for the inspection of the 45 boxes. The commander said: "We do not know who is the person for whom these arms were intended, but it is believed that they were going to increase the arsenal of armed groups.

BELAUNDE DISCUSSES RUNOFF ELECTION, CABINET CHANGES

PY171506 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpts] At Government Palace President Fernando Belaunde has met with the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA], presidential candidate Alan Garcia Perez, the winner of the first electoral round. He expressed thanks for the gesture of the head of state, who had sent the chief of the military household to congratulate him on the election results. Alan Garcia arrived at Government Palace at 1330 and his meeting with the head of state and the prime minister concluded an hour later.

After meeting with Alan Garcia, President Belaunde stated that the runoff election could be held within 30 days and expressed his confidence in the cabinet headed by Dr Percovich who resigned on 15 April.

[Begin Belaunde recording] I feel that the results of the electoral process are fairly conclusive.

[Reporter] You are saying that a runoff election must be held before late...

[Belaunde, interrupting] We think so. I, I...[rephrases] Both, the prime minister, who is here with me now, and I have talked with the president of the Electoral Court Dr...[Belaunde does not say his name] The latter is ready to [words indistinct] the process because then it would no longer be a congressional election but only a presidential election.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Minister Percovich [words indistinct] submitted his letter of resignation and you discarded that possibility. Why?

[Belaunde] Well, because Dr Percovich has my confidence, especially now when we are entering the delicate last stage of the government, the last 3 months. A cabinet change at this point would not benefit anyone, or be good for the country. [end recording]

GARCIA ON RUNOFF ELECTIONS, UNFAIRNESS OF LAW

PY171441 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0330 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Alan Garcia, the winner of the April elections on 16 April, [date as received], has stated that he will comply with the Constitution and will participate in the runoff election to designate the new president of the Republic.

[Begin recording] I stand for compliance with the Constitution and the law, although the law is unfair since it counts blank and invalid votes, something that has never taken place before in an election in Peru or in any other nation. This means that if we count all the votes cast for the candidates, the APRA will get 55 or 56 percent; if we count the invalid and blank votes then we will get only 49 percent. Thus we look forward to the votes cast in the provinces to see whether we will surpass the 50 percent mark.

[Reporter] Dr Percovich has proposed that the law be amended so that the invalid and blank votes are not counted. What is your viewpoint?

[Garcia] Well, the law is unfair. You have been a witness to this. The blank and invalid votes have already been counted. I would not like any change now because it would sound a bit like vote rigging.

[Reporter] At any rate, will you propose that the runoff election be held within 30 days and not within 60 days as scheduled?

[Garcia] I feel that it is very clear that, for example, the APRA now has 49 percent and the United Left 24 percent. I think it is very clear who the candidates are that could run in a runoff election, provided that over the next few days the APRA fails to obtain 50 percent of the votes plus 1. To achieve this target, very little is missing, less than 1 percent. Nevertheless, if we fail to achieve that mark, then let us have the runoff elections as soon as possible. The country cannot wait. The country has already given its mandate and I feel truly responsible for the mandate received. [end recording]

LUIS PERCOVICH CONFIRMS PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF

PY180215 Paris AFP in Spanish 2120 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Lima, 17 Apr (AFP) -- In an interview granted to a radio station, Prime Minister Luis Percovich reported today that Alan Garcia, American Revolutionary Popular Alliance candidate for the presidency, and Alfonso Barrantes, presidential candidate for the United Left [IU], will run again for the presidency in a second round of voting.

This remark shows that Garcia has not achieved the absolute majority needed to be proclaimed immediately president-elect, and puts an end to speculations in this regard that have been circulating since the day following the elections, which marked the defeat of the center and of the right. This also dismisses the possibility of avoiding enormous expenditure resulting in a second mobilization of the citizens.

Percovich explained that based on nearly complete results, the government has given Garcia, who has an absolute majority in Congress, 48 percent of the votes, and since very few votes are needed to complete the vote count, he will not be able to reach the absolute majority.

Although he did not mention his source, and since the Electoral Court has just begun to count the votes, Percovich was certainly referring to the Armed Forces, because in each voting place there was a soldier who received a copy of the results of the vote-count and an on-the-site count was done immediately, in the presence of party representatives.

The percentage given by Percovich, who was the first to suggest a legal reform to prevent the second round of voting, given the overwhelming victory obtained by APRA, squares with the unofficial figures given by television stations on 14 April, but is slightly lower than the yet partial results given by APRA experts.

The IU Marxist front lines of Alfonso Barrantes, Lima mayor are uneasy because they feel that the 22 percent achieved by the party is too small. They are especially troubled because they won in only 2 of 25 departments, losing even in the slum areas, their alleged bastion.

Barrantes, who is now in Mexico, stated that he had received a heavy blow from which he has to learn the appropriate lesson, and that perhaps the voters whom he considered certain had preferred the APRA due to the apparent disagreements within the IU.

He promised to continue the struggle with loyalty and sacrifice in the second round of voting, but the surveys carried out by specialized agencies and journalists are already announcing that Garcia will receive no less than 70 percent of the votes, given the fact that none of the other parties have managed to equal the votes obtained by Garcia.

It is being confirmed, thus, that the APRA will have a majority in Congress, with 32 out of the 60 seats in the Senate, and with 60 out of the 107 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, which will allow him to implement a program with no obstacles. But he has already said that he will respect the opposition and that he hopes to govern with all.

Among the elected APRA senators are the patriarch of the Peruvian writers and of the party, Luis Alberto Sanchez, who is also a candidate for the first vice presidency, and Javier Valle Riestra, Armando Villanueva, Ramiro Priale, Luis de las Casas, and independent Javier Silva Ruete.

Regarding deputies, the list is headed by Luis Negreiros, and followed by Alfredo Barnechea, Remigio Morales Bermudez, son of former President Francisco Morales Bermudez, Carlos Roca, former Attorney General Miguel Cavero, and Carlos Blancas, president of the Christian Democratic Party.

SANGUINETTI ORDERS ARREST OF FORMER DINARP HEAD

PY162214 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1925 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Apr (TELAM) -- President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has ordered that Colonel Juan Jose Pomoli, former director of the National Public Relations Directorate (Dinarp), the agency in charge of press censorship and control during the previous military regime, be arrested on charges of insulting a government official during an argument last week. In compliance with the order issued by Sanguinetti, Army Commander in Chief General Hugo Medina has imposed a 30-day confinement on Pomoli, who are already begun to serve the term.

Today, as the incident was made public, it was also learned that the argument began when Pomoli protested the dismissal of some Dinarp officials the government did not trust. However, no details of the discussions have been reported.

The incident, which became a major issue because Pomoli has close links with former President Gregorio Alvarez, involved Presidential Press Secretary Eduardo Navia, who declined to make any comments. However, high-ranking political officials have expressed the fear that the incident may have repercussions, taking into account that it occurred just a few days after Alvarez, in an open letter to the press, charged the politicians with being cowards. In addition, Congress is conducting investigations into economic crimes, missing persons, and the murder of lawmakers Zelmar Michelini and Hector Gutierrez Ruiz in Buenos Aires in 1976.

Sources close to the government today said that relations with the Armed Forces are normal, although they admitted that there is dissatisfaction in some sectors. In the meantime, political circles have voiced their concern over the fact that despite what the authorities have said, relations between the military and the government became strained at the very moment Congress began its investigations.

DEPUTY CHARGES BORDABERRY, OFFICERS BEFORE COURT

PY120602 Paris AFP in Spanish 2216 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Charges of violating the Constitution were filed today before the Uruguayan Supreme Court against former President Juan Maria Bordaberry and several high-ranking military officers who in 1973 staged the coup d'etat that dissolved the legislature.

The charges were filed by leftist Deputy Nelson Lorenzo, who claims that subversive activities took place and that the state monopoly on power was used to violate the Constitution. Lorenzo blamed the coup on Bordaberry, the commanders in chief of the branches of the Armed Forces, and then-Defense Minister Walter Ravenna. In his plea to the court, Lorenzo stated that the disruption of democratic order was implemented through the systematic use of institutionalized violence.

The law provides that those who violate the Constitution should be sentenced to prison terms of between 10 to 30 years, while those who rise in arms against the state could get either from 2 to 10 years of banishment or prison terms of 6 to 12 years. Lorenzo asked that the members of the Armed Forces involved be tried by civilian courts because, according to him, common crimes committed by the military in times of peace fall under the jurisdiction of these courts.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT MONGE RETURNS FROM U.S. TRIP 16 APRIL

Visit Extended

PA171447 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Last night, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez returned for a 4 and 1/2-day trip to the United States. The trip was originally scheduled to include only Miami in order to participate in a meeting sponsored by the Pan American Development Federation; however, Monge also visited Washington, D.C. after accepting an invitation from U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Although Monge had planned to return yesterday, he was delayed due to requests for last minute meetings, including a meeting with former astronaut Frank Borman, who is president of Eastern Airlines, which covers the Miami-San Jose route.

Comments on Talks With Reagan

PA172054 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] This morning, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge spoke, in general, of the talks he held with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, mentioning his overall support for the proposal that talks between the FSLN leaders and the opposition should take place. Monge added that he does not agree with giving $14 million to the anti-Sandinists and that this money should be used for humanitarian and not aggressive purposes. Monge said that at the White House there is still hope that the Nicaraguan leaders will agree to the dialogue.

[Begin recording -- broadcast in progress] ...With the groups that oppose the Managua government and including the armed groups, and that this dialogue include the plan for internationally supervised pluralist elections with full guarantees that all groups can participate and that the real will of the Nicaraguan people will be respected. This is what we have talked about up to now. There has been no satisfactory reply from the Nicaraguan Government but the United States still has hopes that Nicaragua will at least discuss this proposal. Up to now it has simply been rejected, there has been no discussion of the proposal. They may want to sit down and say that they do not agree with this or that aspect of the proposal. But, up to now, the rejection has been complete and without an analysis of the proposal. I was told at the White House that they still have hopes. [end recording]

The Costa Rican president also mentioned the international acceptance of Costa Rica's neutrality proposal which has decreased the effects of a campaign to discredit Costa Rica. Meanwhile, President Monge said that a counterterrorist corps is being created in the country because of the presence of members of the Red Brigade, PLO, and other terrorists, and the fact that our country has no special defense corps. He added that Costa Rica has never contemplated the idea of participating in any war actions against any country, must less against Nicaragua.

Deputy Criticizes Monge

PA180007 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge's policy is suicidal, dirty, and extremely dangerous, and it will lead Costa Rica into a Central American war, said Costa Rican Deputy Eduardo Mora Valverde [of the communist Costa Rican People's Party] in reference to Monge's support for Reagan regarding the U.S. Congress' approval of $14 million in aid to the counterrevolution.

During a lengthy telephone interview with "Extra" newscast from San Jose, Mora also described Reagan's speech yesterday as evidence of his arrogance in his policy toward Nicaragua. The Costa Rican deputy also praised Nicaragua's efforts in the quest for peace, which he described as the road that must be followed by Latin American peoples to attain peace and development. Following is an exclusive interview with Costa Rican Legislative Assembly Deputy Educardo Mora, from Sen Jose, Costa Rica:

[Begin recording] [Mora] Nothing can be expected from President Reagan. That statement is an act of effrontery from beginning to end. Naturally, our countries are being bombarded with propaganda that misrepresents the situation in Nicaragua. Reagan's statement is part of the propaganda and is aimed at confusing many people. Like I said, this is evidently an act of effrontery and we are sure it will not confuse the honest and wise people in our countries.

[Reporter] President Luis Alberto Monge has asserted his support for Reagan regarding the so-called peace plan for Nicaragua and urged the congressmen to approve the $14 million for the counterrevolution. What is your opinion about this?

[Mora] The Costa Rican president's position is somewhat sad. The president of Costa Rica is in charge of a country which has an extremely serious economic crisis, like other Central American countries. Our country cannot pay its foreign debt and we have serious problems. President Reagan and the United States are playing with Costa Rica's situation, due to our country's geographical location so close to Nicaragua, bordering Nicaragua. Due to Costa Rica's geographical location the United States has expressed its willingness to grant us a series of economic concessions that are not granted to other Latin American countries. President Monge is toying with this possibility and believes he will be able to continue toying with it. He is being pressured by the most reactionary sectors of our bourgeoisie, and this is an extremely dangerous and suicidal policy. This will lead Costa Rica toward an involvement in the Central American war. You can rest assured that our people no longer accept that alternative. President Monge should be much more careful about his acts and relations with the United States.

[Reporter] How do the Costa Rican politicians feel about Nicaragua's efforts to attain peace in Central America?

[Monge] I can tell you that the patriotic, leftist, and democratic politicians are following with deep sympathy the efforts of the FSLN and Nicaraguan Government to attain peace and a peaceful coexistence with the other people in Central America and the world. They consider that this is the road that the Latin American people must follow to attain their development. Nicaragua is acting correctly in this concern and this has been reasserted by the patriotic, leftist, and democratic politicians. However, the rightist politicians, particularly those being led by Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, presidential candidate of the Social Christian Unity Party, believe that the Nicaraguan Government should be replaced with a force organized and led by the United States. [end recording]

PPC'S MORA VALVERDE ON 'DEBT CRISIS', ELECTIONS

Speech at Plaza Theater

PA122233 San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish 29 Mar-4 Apr 85 pp 6, 7

[Report on speech by Manuel Mora Valverde, secretary general of the Costa Rican People's Party, PPC, in San Jose on 25 March]

[Excerpts] "A new stage in Costa Rica's political life begins today. The electoral banquets to deceive the people are over.

"Today it is clear that if we succeed in opening the people's eyes it will be very difficult to deceive them. We will struggle to open the people's eyes. We will fight to beat the surrender-oriented scoundrels. We will fight to repel the invaders from the United States, even with our blood. We will fight to defend the sovereignty of the people of Costa Rica and Central America. We will defend the Nicaraguan revolution. We will move forward. I am now 75, and I would consider it the greatest honor of my life to die struggling for Costa Rica's independence and its people's sovereignty." With these words Manuel Mora Valverde, secretary general of the PPC, closed his speech at the Plaza Theater in San Jose on Monday, 25 March, before 1,500 fellow party members and friends.

Mora made a detailed analysis of the situation prevailing in Central America and Costa Rica. He said that the United States' goal of colonizing Central America is not new and asserted that the dangers that threaten Costa Rica's independence stem from the Reagan administration's policy aimed at destroying the Nicaraguan revolution, turning Costa Rica into an occupied zone to defend U.S. military, economic, and geopolitical interests in Panama, and recovering full control of Central America and the Caribbean, a region that has been declared of vital interest by U.S. governing circles.

Mora indicated: The situation is currently very serious. A massive campaign of lies is under way to convince the people that Nicaragua is a threat to Costa Rica, that the Nicaraguan Army, with aid from Cuba and the Soviet Union, plans to invade Costa Rica. Many provocations have been mounted by the CIA and the U.S. Embassy to justify the occupation of a stretch of our northern border by a so-called peace force that is really the U.S. Army. Mora said: The fundamental aspect of our struggle now is to prevent those plans from succeeding. "We must do everything necessary to defend Costa Rica's and Central America's peace, as well as our fatherland's sovereignty and freedom."

Framed by the serious situation in Central America and the Caribbean and imperialism's grave threats of war, the national situation forces us to handle differently the electoral campaign already in progress, Mora said.

In the first place, he said, it is necessary to achieve the unity of the democratic and progressive forces around a program with clear-cut ideas for the struggle. "With all our strength we should enter the electoral campaign, but not to trade insults and demagoguery with the capitalists' parties. We should use podiums to open the people's eyes and creat a consciousness that will allow us to mobilize the people for the defense of their welfare, peace, the democratic regime, and our sovereignty." He continued: "We will have a presidential candidate, and we will have candidates for deputies and municipality officials, but our main goal will be to speak frankly about the problems of the country and the people and create better conditions for the people to successfully wage their battles for peace and against hunger."

Mora said that the capitalist world crisis has repercussions for Costa Rica and that the crisis is heightened by inability, clumsiness, self-interest, and bad intentions on the part of those in power.

He asked: "For example, could we have reduced our country's crisis to a very low level? Of course. I want you to remember a fact our party has reported before: The big U.S. banks and monopolies have us by the neck. Our debt totals $4 billion. That money arrived here and then disappeared into thin air. Much of it was stolen. Now, we have to pay interest to the big banks to the tune of $500 or $600 million every year, but we cannot because, as has already been demonstrated, we could not pay the debt interest even if we dedicated to it all the coffee, bananas, meat, and sugar that Costa Rica produces."

"That is to say, the big U.S. banks, arms of the big monopolies, have managed to extract the Costa Rican people's output every year without having to invade us. What can we do? They have a machine called the IMF that rules economically over all of Latin America as a dictator. That fund is supported by the United States. It is the IMF that enacts laws through the government, which allows them to do so. They tell the president: Sir, you must pay the debt, but you need more money. We will give it to you, that is to say, we will authorize the delivery of the necessary money, but you must raise your taxes. Then they come again and say: Do you want more money? We will authorize it, but you have to raise water, telephone, and energy rates, as well as bus fares. The IMF forces the government to raise the cost of living and add to the number of unemployed and the misery of the masses in exchange for more money.

Finally, Mora said: "We propose the enactment of a law to put into the hands of the people what is now in the hands of a state organization: the right to demand investigations of massive frauds and swindles and the right to demand punishment of the swindlers. We have to put the scoundrels and the corrupt where they belong."

Statement Expounds on Speech

PA120043 San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish 29 Mar-4 Apr 85 p 2

[Statement by Manuel Mora Valverde, secretary general of the PPC, entitled "Our Position: They Are Leading Us to War With Nicaragua Because They Need That Pretext To Occupy Us"; date not given]

[Text] During the popular assembly held last Monday [25 March] at the Plaza Theater, I expressed the opinion of my party's directorate regarding the current grave political crisis in Central America and the Caribbean. This newspaper carries a report on this event and what was said. However, I feel compelled to summarize and highlight a few of the ideas presented therein because I am convinced that Costa Rica is entering the most serious period of its history. Although Costa Rica is a small country, it is of fundamental interest for the United States politically and militarily due to its geographical position. Our Republic's sovereignty and peace are seriously threatened, and it is not risky to say that we could face a painful surprise in the very near future.

The electoral campaign has begun, and Costa Ricans are already discussing candidacies with great enthusiasm. Because of certain political traditions, many citizens follow the electoral process with the same interest they would show for the most relevant sports events. They do not see the grave threats seething beneath the current electoral process. These citizens are like innocent children playing on the edge of a cliff, not knowing its dimensions. But these citizens are unaware of the cliff not because they cannot see it but because there are powerful forces working to blur their vision and make them see a paradise where, in reality, an inferno is developing.

The United States, as President Reagan has said bluntly, needs military, economic, and political control over Central America, definitively and as soon as possible. The United States believes that if it loses control over Central America it will automatically lose control over the Caribbean. By the same token, if it loses control over the Caribbean it will lose control over two large oceans, the Atlantic and the Pacific, as well as over its famous "backyard," which is the Latin American continent. President Reagan and his great political and military aides have told the world, directly from the U.S. Senate, that if considered necessary the United States will carry out a military invasion of Central America and occupy it by force. Before taking this step the United States will try to subjugate the Central American peoples through all kinds of pressures and with the collaboration of useful politicians whom they manage to control.

Costa Rica is a Central American sector of dual interest for the Yankee politicians. In addition to being part of Central America it is located at exactly the same level as Panama, and, like Panama, it is of fundamental importance for the defense of the Canal Zone. For the United States, defending the Canal Zone means defending the spot where 50 percent of its foreign trade, as well as 50 percent of U.S. imported oil, must transit. In addition, it is also defending its right to be absolute owner of the Caribbean Sea. In addition, Panama is a powerful military base, equipped even with rockets and atomic submarines. To protect all of this it is necessary for the United States to consider Costa Rica a pawn on a chessboard.

Moreover, the United States views Cuba as a sort of military power located at the center of the Caribbean and linked ideologically to the socialist world. Thus, they need to turn Central America into a gigantic military base to confront Cuba whenever they deem it necessary. The United States has already taken the first step in building such a base in Honduras and El Salvador. The United States is not thinking about any communist danger. The argument about communist peril serves only to fool the Central American peoples.

The Unites States is spending millions of dollars trying to convince the Costa Rican people that Nicaragua constitutes a threat to our fatherland, that Nicaragua is armed to the teeth to invade us at any moment, and that Cuba and the Soviet Union are lurking behind Nicaragua, prepared to impose in Costa Rica the horrors of communism. Using this fallacious propaganda, the United States seeks permission from the Costa Rican Government, whether the current or future one, to occupy our northern border with soldiers. They would tell our people and the world that their goal is to protect a small, democratic, and unarmed country from Nicaraguan aggression. The current government has not given in, so far. Yet the United States is not disheartened. I do not believe their interest in occupying our northern border is part of a plan to invade Nicaragua. They have already raised Honduras to the same level as Nicaragua, and they have placed their war vessels there to be mobilized at any moment. The United States seeks to station its Army on Costa Rican soil to separate us militarily from the rest of Central America.

They want to confirm their contention that Costa Rica is an extension of Panama. Right now the play is to make Costa Rica break relations with Nicaragua and cause a war between the two countries. That would give them the opportunity to occupy us "in the name of democracy and Christian civilization." The first thing the United States wants is to control a stretch of land several kilometers wide parallel with the Nicaraguan border. They have staged and will continue to stage all sorts of provocations to bring Costa Rica into a war with Nicaragua. They will try to interfere in the elections and even stage a coup d'etat should they deem it necessary. To that end, they already have strong allies inside the country.

Neither Cuba, Nicaragua, the Soviet Union, nor any Central American revolutionary organization has any intention of undermining the United States' security. But all of us are vitally interested in protecting our nation's peace and sovereignty. Would Yankee military officers rather set fire to the Caribbean than negotiate with our peoples? We will make every effort to open the way for negotiations. The United States cannot protect their security by enslaving us.

PUBLIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR ON CARO QUINTERO CASE

FL121834 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1535 GMT 12 Apr 85

[By Oscar Hidalgo]

[Text] San Jose, 12 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Public Ministry Director Fernando Cruz has rejected the idea that Rafael Caro Quintero came to Costa Rica by chance or without thinking. He came with several possibilities of remaining here that had been worked out in Costa Rica, he said, referring to the relations that Mexican drug traffickers have with members of the Costa Rican political and economic elite.

Cruz was very pessimistic about the possibility of uncovering the political and economic connections with the international Mafia. He warned that the resources of the drug traffickers are so great they can infiltrate even the police organization and compete with the state. Meanwhile, the Costa Rican press has refrained from publishing the names of police officers, businessmen, and government employees that appear in the documents seized from Caro Quintero. Nevertheless, quoting a Mexican press organization, LA REPUBLICA newspaper underscores the fact that the president's brother-in-law, Samuel Yabkelewitz, has denied having any relation with the Caro Quintero gang.

With regard to one of the obstacles to the investigation on the ramifications of the drug Mafia in Costa Rica, Cruz said that because of the circumstances under which he entered Costa Rica, there is no justification for the authorities to claim ignorance about the Caro Quintero case. The investigation is centered on the personnel of the Juan Santamaria International Airport because it has been learned that the Mexican drug traffickers received entrance permits after paying $60,000.

Cruz said another of the obstacles to the investigation is the growing corruption that makes possible the sale of Mexican passports to persons of other nationalities for $5,000 and the very poor police operations to control drug trafficking.

Finally, Cruz said it is possible that drug trafficking and arms smuggling to Central America may go together because both operations recently became one.

EL SALVADOR

ARCHBISHOP OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THIRD ROUND OF TALKS

PA171954 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Apr 85

[Text] Even though he has not said it, Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas is optimistic about the third meeting between the government and the rebels which could be held on Sunday, 28 April. We approached Msgr Rivera y Damas this morning following his homily at the cathedral.

We talked to him briefly on matters of general interest and he hinted that the dialogue between Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte's government, the FMLN's leftist guerrillas, and its political branch, the FDR, could be held in late April. We asked Msgr Rivera y Damas for his opinion regarding the government's refusal to meet with the FMLN-FDR on 21 April.

[Begin recording] [Rivera y Damas] I believe that we should not throw away this chance for a third meeting. I have suggested that all aspects be considered so later there will be no excuse to say that because of this or that the meeting was not successful. This is what I wanted to say. I understand that the proposal will be studied. As far as I am concerned, the sooner the meeting is held the better. However, this is only my opinion.

[Reporter] Does the church feel that the parties involved are being sincere and honest?

[Rivera y Damas] I can see that the dialogue is necessary. All that surrounds this proposal, the publicity, pressures, and so forth, are only factors. However, since the dialogue is a political matter and the forces involved are political, it is quite natural that these factors exist. The bad part about this is that we tend to (?forget) the people and this is why I believe that this should be seriously considered.

[Reporter] Do you think that the United States' request for the Nicaraguan Government to talk with the counterrevolutionaries will bring detente to Central America? Would El Salvador be involved as a means of pressure?

[Rivera y Damas] It is a general principle that a dialogue is intended to relax tensions, make them less tense. In this sense, it is convenient, or praiseworthy, that a dialogue between the Sandinists and the contras be held. Now, the implications this dialogue may have is something I cannot foresee.

[Reporter] Is the government planning to meeting with the rebels, with the mediation of the church, for some time in May? When?

[Rivera y Damas] No, I think that the meeting could be held in April. However, they have not decided on a date. [end recording]

These were Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas' statements during which he said that be believes that the meeting between the government and the lefitsts could take place before the end of April. Some Government House sources have said that the possibility of a 28 April meeting between the government and the rebels cannot be rejected. They added that the meeting would be held in a town in the eastern part of the country; however, they gave no further details.

MILITARY OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT IN SAN VICENTE

PA180022 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA 16 Apr 85 pp 2, 23

[Text] As a result of the cleanup operations by several military units, at least 20 terrorists have been killed in clashes in various parts of San Vicente. According to military reports, the Canas and Jiboa Battalions belonging to the 5th Infantry Brigade, and the Bracamonte Battalion stationed at El Salvador Airport, are participating in these operations to break up the terrorist groups in San Vicente. The troops of these battalions have clashed with the groups and have been able to dismember the paracentral "Anastasio Aquino Front" and the X-21 of the FMLN, which is considered to be one of the most aggressive subversive groups.

Military sources said that these operations have taken place near El Coyolito canton, near the Chichontepec Volcano, and in La Campana and San Pedro Hills, as well as at other points near the Cuscatlan and Usulutan Departments. The 20 casualties were reported by the units which have been fighting in the area near to Santa Cruz Michapa, Las Animas canton, where military detachment No 5, stationed in Cojutepeque in Cuscatlan Department, went into action.

Through these continuous cleanup operations, the military sources said, the Armed Forces are trying to prevent the extremist groups from continuing to commit all sorts of atrocities against the civilian population which has lately been subjected to a never-ending series of attacks, thefts, and murders.

FMLN RELEASES PRISONERS IN DULCE NOMBRE DE MARIA

PA172245 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1845 GMT 15 Apr 85

[Text] Members of the FMLN have reported that they have released several Army prisoners. The released prisoners are: Sergeant Nelson Guerra Lopez, Sergeant Jose Efrain Carvajal, Corporal Jose Beltran, and Subsergeant German Alfredo Landaverde. According to information given to Radio Cadena Sonora, the released prisoners were 4th Infantry Brigade troops in El Paraiso. According to the FMLN spokesmen, the release took place in Dulce Nombre de Maria, in the northern Department of Chalatenango. The civilians of the town, about 300 people, were present when the prisoners were handed over to representatives of the Catholic Church. These representatives were not identified. The release of the prisoners was confirmed in a telephone call to Dulce Nombre de Maria. However, no further details were given.

We repeat: the soldiers released by the FMLN are: Sgt Nelson Guerra Lopez, Sgt Jose Efrain Carvajal, Cpl Jose Beltran, and Subsergeant German Alfredo Landaverde. The whereabouts of the released prisoners is not known and the FMLN did not report if this release had been a humanitarian act or whether it was part of an exchange of prisoners. Meanwhile, Radio Cadena Sonora is waiting for the Armed Forces Press Committee to supply more information.

FARABUNDO MARTI COMMENTS ON SOLDIERS RELEASE

PA172318 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] On Sunday, 14 April, the FMLN, demonstrating once again that it respects human rights, freed four puppet Army soldiers. In the presence of hundreds of Dulce Nombre de Maria residents, two priests received two sergeants, a subsergeant, and a corporal from the 4th Infantry Brigade who became prisoners of war during clashes that took place along the Northern Trunk Highway and in San Fernando, Chalatenango Department.

The names of the freed prisoners follow: Sergeants Nelson Guerra Lopez and Jose Efrain Carvajal Reyes; Subsergeant German Alfredo Landaverde Romero, and Corporal Jose Beltran. These prisoners were not turned over to the International Red Cross in view of the hostile attitude of Colonel Ochoa, who refuses to authorize the free mobilization of that humanitarian organization.

Col Ochoa Perez' attitude extends to the national and international press to the point that he has prevented the access of representatives of the presidency's press office. Regarding this, we received a report from our correspondent in Chalatenango Department.

[Begin recording] Col Sigifrido Ochoa Perez continues to (?block) the access of national and international newsmen and International Red Cross vehicles heading to the northern area of Chalatenango Department. The latter group is carrying out humanitarian work in this department, including the distribution of food and medical supplies to civilians. Those activities are being thwarted by Col Ochoa. In addition, blocking the access of newsmen is a violation of the right to inform the people. This blocking action began on 31 March and continues to this date in the northern area along the Northern Trunk Highway and other highways in western Chalatenango. We denounced this attitude by Col Sigifrido Ochoa Perez that violates the right to inform the people and the humanitarian activities being carried out by the International Red Cross among cilvians in Chalatenango Department. This is all from your correspondent in Chalatenango Jaime Caceres. [end recording]

RADIO VENCEREMOS COMMENTS ON KIRKPATRICK VISIT

PA170434 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Station commentary: "Duarte and the Witch"]

[Text] Only the complete sellout of our homeland by the Duartes, the Vides Casanovas, and the Blandons can explain how a person with a history like that of Jeane Kirkpatrick could have dared come to El Salvador to give us lessons on morality.

The visit paid to our country last week by Ronald Reagan's ambassador to the United Nations is a most shameful action by Duarte and his generals. They went to meet her as if she were a head of state. With their heads bowed, the turncoats formed a line at the airport, ready to receive instructions, ready to apologize for the tremendous scandal they created through the electoral fraud and the [words indistinct] vote count. Kirkpatrick does not hold any official position that could explain why the Salvadoran Government went to meet her so [word indistinct]. However, with or without a post, Kirkpatrick continues to be the pet witch at Reagan's service. She, the witch, continues to be the representative of the most warmongering sector in the U.S. Administration.

As Reagan's ambassador to the United Nations, Kirkpatrick became famous at the UN Generaly Assembly and the UN Security Council. This lady spoke in humiliating terms about the poor nations and had an overbearing manner with regard to the untiring efforts of most Latin American, Asian, and African peoples to turn the United Nations into a means to achieve peace and progress in the world. Finally, Reagan himself had to remove her from her post.

Ms Kirkpatrick can now devote herself, without any diplomatic considerations, to fulfilling her mission as special envoy to scare people -- to scare people with the threat that always accompanies her speeches, with the threat to use the full array of means of commercial, financial, political, and military intervention which the United States has developed to blackmail other nations. Kirkpatrick is the legitimate ambassador of the warmongering mafia behind Ronald Reagan. She can now travel throughout the world without any diplomatic makeup. She is the maskless witch sent by the imperialists to keep the people afraid of the allegedly superhuman forces of the U.S. empire, to keep the people feeling panicky about the punishment that will inevitably befall anyone who dares stand up to the empire.

However, witches no longer scare anyone in El Salvador and other nations which have made the decision to fight for their liberation. Fear is no longer working as a curb. It broke forever when the Vietnamese people defeated Yankee imperialism.

How can such a witch scare Salvadorans with such ridiculous statements as the ones she made in Santa Cruz and (Asconas), in La Paz Department, where she dared talk about the inhumanity of the war which the people are waging against their oppressors? A people like ours, who are already fully engaged in a confrontation with the Americans because it is they who send the planes, the helicopters, and the bombs to kill Salvadorans, will not engage in any discussion about the morality of war with the aggressors. They come here to attack us. They come here to intervene in our homeland, and have now sent Kirkpatrick the witch so we can discuss with her the manner in which we wage war. This is too much of a [word indistinct] for the Salvadoran people to allow themselves to be confused.

We know Kirkpatrick. This lady cried publicly over the war in Vietnam but did not cry over the hundreds of thousands of civilians who were massacred by the U.S. troops in that heroic country. [Word indistinct] because, despite all that genocide, the superpowerful United States were unable to win that war. We know Kirkpatrick, who has now come here to [word indistinct] morals to us. She is the lady who, at the UN Security Council, voted against and sometimes even vetoed serious plans to promote peace. She was on the side of the British colonial forces during the Malvinas war with Argentina. She sided with the invading Israeli Army during each one of its wars against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Kirkpatrick has always been a defender of the racist South African regime and of the cruelest dictatorships, like those of Chile, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

Messrs Duarte and Vides Casanova seek to depict such a criminal witch as a symbol of morality when our people are plagued by the war that her own government has imposed on us, and is lingering on precisely because of the U.S. intervention. Don't these gentlemen know that they are thus (?revealing) to the people their character as puppets, rascals, and turncoats? Aren't they afraid that -- despite Duarte's speech-making as well as his reformist and democratic mask -- the people will learn that those who really chart policies in El Salvador are people as reactionary and criminal as Kirkpatrick the witch?

FMLN PROTESTS AIR RAIDS ON CIVILIAN POPULATION

PA132316 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 12 Apr 85

[Text] On 5 April the 5th Infantry Brigade based in San Miguel carried out an attack with 81-mm mortars on El Paon, Vuelta La Herradura, El Ujustal, and other nearby cantons. As a result of this mortar attack, crops were damaged, pastures were burned, and houses were destroyed. At 0700 on 6 April an Armed Forces helicopter machine-gunned Cordoncillo and Santa Rosa Linares cantons, Sesori jurisdiction, San Miguel Department, damaging the property of the civilian population.

At 0130 on 8 April soldiers of the 3d Infantry Brigade and members of the National Guard, demoralized over the defeats dealt them by the FMLN, clashed among themselves in Nueva Granada and engaged in a shoot-out, even using M-79 grenades. The population in Nueva Granada is terrified and has protested over these unacceptable actions, which reflect a state of nervous psychosis and endanger the lives of the civilian population.

In addition, we protest before our people the murder of a woman in an air attack by the dictatorship's helicopters on 11 April in Chalatenango Department. At 1100 two helicopters machine-gunned and fired rockets on the civilian population in (Pozillo del Norte) canton, killing Jacinta Martinez, 36, and leaving eight children orphaned. Another peasant woman was wounded during the indiscriminate air raid. This protest has been reported to our people and human rights organizations by the People's Power Subregional Junta in Chalatenango.

The report adds that another civilian by the name of Domingo was shot to death on 10 April in Llano Grande, Chalatenango. According to the report, this worker was going to Llano Grande to shop when he was intercepted and shot to death by a group of soldiers dressed in civilian clothes who were in the area committing all kinds of outrages against the population.

GUATEMALA

CACIF WITHDRAWS DELEGATIONS TO STATE ORGANIZATIONS

PA172023 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpts] The coordinating Committee of Farming, Commerce, Industrial, and Financial Associations [CACIF] tonight decided to withdraw all of its representatives to state institutions to protest the government's decision to keep in office some officials who were responsible for the nation's economic situation. CACIF has repeatedly called for the dismissal of Economy Minister Leonel Hernandez Cardona, but the president said yesterday that he would not remove any more officials following the replacement of Finance Minister Leonardo Figueroa Villate.

In the future CACIF will be the only organization authorized to represent the private sector and to coordinate that sector's activities in view of the national economic crisis. This was decided during a special CACIF meeting held tonight. The president of the Chamber of Industry, Carlos Torres, discussed the main aspects of this meeting:

[Begin recording] The CACIF decided, first of all, to order the immediate withdrawal of all its delegates from the various government organizations so that they will not attend their respective boards of directors meetings until all of the proposals presented by the private sector to the government are duly resolved. In the second place, the CACIF announces to all of its member organizations that their delegates should abstain from attending the meetings of the public organizations where they represent the private sector until the problem arising from the government's attitude is solved. These measures take effect immediately. This decision is dated 16 April. [end recording]

Private organizations not affiliated with the CACIF also withdrew their delegates to state organizations, another 50 delegates, it was reported tonight. Tomorrow the CACIF leadership will again visit the National Constituent Assembly to discuss some undisclosed issues with the Assembly leadership. It was learned that CACIF leadership members this afternoon telephoned the National Constituent Assembly president to ask for an appointment, which was granted for tomorrow at 0900 hours. However, sources from the Assembly said they did not know the reasons for this second CACIF visit in less than 8 days. During the first meeting CACIF and the Assembly virtually formed a common front to oppose the taxes the government recently announced and which were definitely abolished today.

LOBOS ON CANCELLATION OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN'S VISIT

PA170024 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Apr 85 p 2

[Text] Brigadier General Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, deputy dead of state, said: We warned that U.S. congressmen may be in danger upon their arrival here. Lobos Zamora charged that subversive groups tried to create unrest during the demonstration held on Saturday by the Mutual Support Group. He was commenting on the cancellation of a U.S. congressmen's trip to Guatemala to participate in the demonstration.

Lobos Zamora stated that our intelligence services discovered that cells of subversive groups would try to disrupt order during the peaceful demonstration and for this reason the Guatemalan Government told the U.S. Embassy that it would be ill-advised for U.S. congressmen to come here to participate in the demonstration because their lives would be in danger. The high-level military leader said that this was the reason Bob Edgar and Ted Weiss, U.S. Democratic representatives from Pennsylvania and New York respectively, decided not to come to our country during their tour of several Central American countries. Lobos Zamora made this statement at the conclusion of the soccer match between the National Selection and the Aurora Club held at the 5th Military Zone's stadium.

SERRANO LETTER TO REAGAN RAPS STATE DEPARTMENT

PA170442 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2350 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Today presidential candidate Jorge Serrano Elias sent a letter to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in his own name, criticizing recent statements by the State Department on the political-economic situation in Guatemala.

Among other things, in his letter, Serrano Elias said that the State Department's statements that the tax and exchange rate measures that the military government tried to impose last week are necessary have caused surprise and concern because those measures, which are obviously bureaucratic and would have created a more serious economic recession, brought the people to the verge of desperation. Arguing that he possesses a clear stand in defense of political, social, and economic freedom because he is a former president of the State Council, engineer Jorge Serrano Elias told the President in his letter that all sectors, popular as well as business sectors, voiced their repudiation in a peaceful, but firm way and forced the government to cancel the measures and dismiss the finance minister.

Finally, Serrano told Reagan that even after comparing existing differences between your economy and ours, we still believe that the promotion of investment and an increased productive capacity are the bases for the solution to our problems.

HONDURAS

SUAZO CORDOVA VETOES CONGRESSIONAL AMNESTY LAW

PA181226 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0754 GMT 18 Apr 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 (REUTER) -- Honduran President Robert Suazo Cordova has vetoed an amnesty law that would have benefited imprisoned Supreme Court President Ramon Valladares, who has been accused of treason.

The veto was made know to the Congress through a document sent to that body last night. Last month Congress appointed Valladares and eight other judges to replace Supreme Court members who had been dismissed by the legislative body after it accused them of biased interpretation of the electoral law in order to favor Suazo's faction in the election of presidential candidates.

Suazo replied by charging that Valladares and his colleagues had committed "treason to the fatherland" and "had acted against the form of government." Valladares was arrested on 29 March, and the other judges are reportedly in hiding.

The veto is the lastest action in a political crisis confronting the executive and legislative branches in the framework of what opponents say is Suazo's attempt to choose his own successor for the November elections. Early this week the president vetoed another congressional initiative establishing that presidential hopefuls would be chosen in primaries, as occurs in the United States, rather than at the traditional party conventions.

BU GIRON ANSWERS CRITICISM, EXPLAINS GOALS

PA180200 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 16 Apr 85 p 24

[Text] Commenting on General Walter Lopez' statement that the Armed Forces defend the country's Constitution, National Congress President Efrain Bu Giron said yesterday: "We are also doing so by preserving the legal system in order to safeguard peace."

The Liberal presidential hopeful said that the Armed Forces have been playing an important role with regard to Honduran democracy, which is in the process of development. Bu Giron explained why he has not attended certain public functions and other events. He said he did not attend the events to commemorate the Air Force's anniversary because he decided to attend the funeral of Jorge Larach, whom he described as a particularly dear friend.

Bu Giron answered the criticism from President Roberto Suazo Cordova, who has complained that Bu Giron did not attend the visits by U.S. Vice President Bush and Colombian President Belisario Betancur even though he received invitations. Bu Giron said he wanted to make it clear once and for all that the National Congress is not trying to destabilize the incumbent government. "Our objective is that justice be truly imparted for the benefit of the Honduran people," he noted.

The presidential hopeful demanded yesterday that the Supreme Court elected by a majority of the National Congress be installed. Calm will not be achieved in our country through threats to public employees or the removal of followers of this or that presidential aspirant, Bu Giron remarked.

Alluding to President Suazo, the president of Congress said that he does not like tricks, maneuvers, or intrigue in politics. "I would not attend a gathering in order to say: Look, so and so is not here because he is snubbing you; I will never say such a thing. I never think ill of other people's actions because I think that when someone does not attend an event it is because he has some other engagement," Bu Giron remarked. He protested the president's veto of the amendments to the electoral law, saying: "Congress will lose nothing. The loser will be our country and the people who know how to select their candidates and do not want imposed ones."

'DEMOCRATIC STANCE' OF ARMED FORCES PRAISED

PA172242 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] It has not been wrong for us to maintain that there is clear evidence that the new Honduran military leaders have a new democratic stance and that this new democratic stance is expressed through their full support for legal, constitutional order through civil authorities. This undeniable fact has brought much prestige to our country during the past few years. Our country has become trustworthy in the eyes of the international community and credit institutions.

The firm support of the free nations of the world and international credit institutions for our government -- which was freely elected by the people -- is extremely important. We must maintain this relationship at all costs.

It is necessary to support democratic governments so as to clearly differentiate between constitutional, pluralistic systems and totalitarian regimes, regardless of their ideological inclinations. This is clearly understood by the men in uniform who, as part of the modern Honduran Armed Forces, faithfully and permanently guarantee the democratic system of government that we currently enjoy. For this reason, during a recent interview granted to a local radio station, General Walter Lopez Reyes, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, once again made it clear that the Armed Forces are interested in no coupist adventure and that, quite the contrary, the Armed Forces are determined to maintain consititutional order at all costs. According to their commander in chief, the Armed Forces do not want to assume the political power since they have many things to keep them busy and that are of their exclusive domain. The military leaders are aware that it is not through coupist adventures that a country's image is improved, particularly now that the eyes of the world are set upon the tormented Central American region. In addition, such a coupist adventure would only bring serious complications to the nation. Gen Lopez, however, suggested that politicians be more sensible and mature and regretted the wrong way in which the president of the Republic is regarded, since he is the citizen who occupies the country's highest office.

Some politicians could take advantage of the valuable lesson that the Honduran Armed Forces have taught us, that is, to work for the country's good.

GENERAL LOPEZ' SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CRITICIZED

PA172144 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Apr 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Has the Dictatorship Begun in Our Country?"]

[Text] The latest remarks by General Walter Lopez Reyes, commander of the Armed Forces, leave no doubt that the military leadership has sided with the president of the Republic to make sure that the president's will prevails over the sovereign power of the National Congress.

On behalf of the Armed Forces, Gen Lopez Reyes has said that at no time "do we want to insinuate that we are questioning the government of President Suazo Cordova or its policy. On the contrary, we are giving it definite support." "Therefore," he added, "we will maintain that decision of continuing to protect the system and the president of the Republic because we understand that as the Hondurans' highest representative, it is with him that the presidents and other personalities from abroad must meet." In this way, the chief ot the Armed Forces revealed the extremely peculiar view that the armed institution has about the system. According to Gen Lopez, the system, which we suppose is democratic and republican, is not based on the popular sovereignty represented in the first branch of the government, the National Congress, but on a single person, the president of the Republic, to whom he gives absolute power.

In the Honduran system, the National Congress is worthless because it does not have the support of the Armed Forces to enforce the law and to carry out its legislative functions on one hand and its political function of controlling and supervising the executive and judicial branches on the other.

In order to impose the president on the Republic, who in this way becomes a dictator and becomes something like the Holy Trinity that goether with God and Gen Walter Lopez Reyes, the supreme commander has announced that the Armed Forces will take "drastic measures" that will soon be implemented.

At the same time he has announced that the citizens' protests, an essentially democratic mechanism, do not have a place in Honduras because international terrorism would take advantage of them. In short, a dictatorship has begun to be established in Honduras under the cover of defense of the Constitution. This is so because the chief of the Armed Forces has said that all of this is to defend the Constitution but in reality it is to protect President Suazo Cordova, who is directly responsible for the country's institutional crisis because he did not respect the National Congress and has prevented, by force, the installation of the Supreme Court of Justice appointed and sworn in on 31 March.

There is talk of the defense of institutions, but the National Congress is not included. In the eyes of the military leadership, those who make up the National Congress are politicians in a derogatory sense. Therefore, the National Congress is worthless. President Suazo Cordova is not a politician. Instead, he is the system, even though he has violated the law by acting like a sectarian politician when as president, he has held the post of coordinator of the Rodista Liberal Movement.

Throughout Gen Lopez' remarks on behalf of the military institution one sees a total disregard for the constitutional functions of the legislative branch and therefore, an absolute disobedience of the legal mandates. They call that defense of the Constitution and the system.

No civil or military authority is obliged to obey illegal orders or orders that involve committing a crime. The Constitution establishes this. Because of this, the chief of the Armed Forces cannot blindly execute the orders of the president of the Republic acting as commander in chief. The fundamental law gives subordinates this discretionary power and if they fulfill illegal or criminal orders, they are liable for punishment.

Setting aside the Constitution, the chief of the Armed Forces has not used that discretionary power. He receives orders and he fulfills them, regardless of what they are as long as they come from President Suazo Cordova. The system is defended, in other words, by establishing a dictatorship in the country with the power of the Armed Forces.

Instead of reassuring the people, the position adopted by the military high command -- or by a part of the high command -- has increased the concern of the Honduran people. Everything that was stated indicates that the citizens' will does not count. All the country's sectors demand internal elections to choose the candidates for public office. This has been publicly demonstrated. However, President Suazo Cordova and the military leadership use the official argument that "there is no time for that," even though the Electoral Tribunal is ready and has said that such internal elections would not hinder the electoral process.

Why are they afraid that the Honduran people will exercise their sovereignty and democratically elect their leaders? Is it due to the desire to continue to manipulate these unfortunate people to serve foreign interests to the detriment of the national interests? Why are they so obstinately opposed to the institutionalization of democracy in Honduras while at the same time they insist on the defense of the system?

Are the views expressed by Gen Lopez truly shared by the Honduran Armed Forces? Is there really a military consensus on this or is this just the position of a few?

In any case, Honduras is definitely entering into a dictatorship and as a result of what the Armed Forces chief said, the National Congress should ask him to go to the National Congress to explain the decision to ignore the legislative branch and what this means for the country's future.

ADVISER ON REAGAN-SUAZO CORDOVA 21 MAY MEETING

PA140200 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 12 Apr 85 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The meeting between Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova and U.S. President Ronald Reagan will serve to clarify the negotiations being carried out by the two countries in the economic aid and security fields.

The new push the negotiations could receive in the meeting would be beneficial, because there have been difficulties in advancing at the technical levels. Perhaps at a higher level broader understanding for Honduras can be achieved, Moises Starkman, minister-adviser of the presidency, has said. The official added that the 21 May presidential meeting "can help greatly to facilitate the negotiations" that are being undertaken by the two countries in the economic aid and security fields. To obtain results on these points, Starkman announced that on 3-4 May the subcommissions on those two fields will meet to deal with the points still being discussed so that the Honduran and U.S. presidents will discuss only the points that are the object of disagreement.

The minister-adviser clarified that the topics being analyzed by the representatives of the two countries deal with the economic area and the additional aid that Honduras is requesting, which is quite independent from the normal aid that the United States provides and is included in its foreign aid budget.

Starkman refused to disclose the amount of money being negotiated by the two delegations. He added that they are currently involved in achieving an agreement on the methodology to be used in investment areas and in determining Honduras' capacity to absorb the funds. Nevertheless, the minister-adviser of the presidency indicated that "the devaluation of Honduran currency" is not the object of negotiation, thus emphasizing the government's firm position against modifying the lempira's parity with the dollar.

Asked if the next government would have to adopt such a measure, Starkman said the decision on whether to make a devaluation will depend on its economic, fiscal, and monetary policy. Nevertheless, he explained that the current administration is adopting measures so the new president will not have to choose the path of devaluation.

The economic official of the Liberal administration also announced that two letters of intention will be signed next week to permit the disbursement of $43 million to Honduras. Of this sum, $20 million will be used to support the balance of payments and the rest to promote exports in a program directed by the Economy Secretariat. The loan agreement was signed last year in Tegucigalpa by then Finance Secretary Arturo Corleto.

FIRST PHASE OF 'BIG PINE III' MANEUVERS CONCLUDE

PA170416 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] The opening phase of the "Big Pine III" joint military maneuvers of U.S. and Honduran troops concluded on Saturday.

The exercises were observed by special guests U.S. General John Galvin, chief of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama; General Manuel Noriega, chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces; the military attaches of the diplomatic missions accredited in Honduras; U.S. Ambassador John Dimitri Negroponte, and other important U.S. political figures, including Mark White, who was later accused in the United States of seeking publicity through his visit to our country. Regina Osorio, our correspondent in San Geronimo, in Choluteca, sent the following recorded report:

[Begin recording] [Osorio] Last Saturday marked the end of the initial phase of the combined Hondruan-U.S. military ameuvers known as "Big Pine III," which began on 8 April. The exercises, conducted in two sectors of the Choiuteca Department, which is located 30 km from the Nicaraguan border, simulated a conventional attack by that neighboring country. The combined forces used M-60 tanks, U.S.-manufactured armored troop carriers, several Soviet-made tanks, and approximately 5,000 Honduran and 4,000 U.S. troops.

The objective of the operation was to establish the troop mobilization capacity, communications systems, and logistics and air support.

The closing ceremony in San Geronimo, Choluteca, was attended by the military attaches of the different countries accredited to Honduras. The different military units that participated in the maneuvers were presented with recognition plaques. Gen John Galvin, the chief of the U.S. Southern Command, who is based in Panama, said the exercises are designed to prepare a defense against the menace existing in the area.

[Galvin] Honduran and U.S. soldiers: I am proud to have observed the maneuvers. It will be an unforgettable experience. You have fulfilled an important service; in fact, I would say it is a historic service.

[Osorio] The commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, General Walter Lopez Reyes, said that the exercises had yielded the expected results and that they had provided new experiences from which the nation's Armed Forces will benefit.

[Lopez Reyes] This type of maneuver bolsters the defensive confidence of our Armed Forces at these moments of chaos in the Central American region, where violence has destroyed all alternatives of peaceful coexistence. Instability and the contradictory doctrines have driven the leaderships insane. The peace treaties between the nations included in the region's geopolitics have deteriorated with the resulting violation of the contracted commitments. We are worried about our future. Therefore, we are compelled to prepare ourselves to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity and our democratic system, upholding the peace as a fundamental element of collective harmony and progress. Our duty commits us primarily to maintaining our internal peace and our traditional respect for the free determination of all the peoples with whom we have relations.

Today, more than ever, we wish that the relations of friendship, brotherhood, and doctinary alliance with the U.S. Government and people become stronger within the framework of dignity, cooperation, and mutual respect. May our words serve as bonds of brotherhood to unite us in the search for a common destiny for the benefit of our peoples.

[Osorio] The second phase of the "Big Pine III" maneuvers will begin on 17 April in Yoro Department, and will involve counterinsurgency exercises. From San Geronimo, in the Choluteca Department, this was Regina Osorio reporting. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTER SENDS PROTEST TO COSTA RICA

PA171650 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1553 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Protest note sent by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to the Costa Rican Government -- read by reporter Alfonso Amela Sanchez -- date not given]

[Text] Your Execllency, Carlos Jose Gutierrez, minister of foreign affairs, San Jose, Costa Rica:

Mr Minister: I am sending you this note in the fact of the following serious events: At 1835 hours on 14 April [as heard], an undetermined number of armed mercenaries harassed, from Costa Rican territory, 12 km south of San Carlos, the Nicaraguan border post at La Esperanza, located 7 km southeast of San Carlos in San Juan Department. During the attack, the criminals fired guns, 81-mm mortars, and RPG-7 rocket launchers. The Nicaraguan Government wishes to voice before the Costa Rican Government its justified concern over this attack which, due to the war material used, could not have gone unnoticed by the Costa Rican authorities stationed in the area.

These serious actions, which in every sense violate international law, should be seriously studied by the Costa Rican Government to adopt the measures necessary to avoid future actions where Costa Rican territory is used to the detriment of Costa Rica's declaration of neutrality and the cordial relations which should prevail between neighboring countries.

It is very disturbing that this action has taken place only 2 days following the Contadora Group meeting in Panama, which proves that the U.S. Government plans to continue hindering the peace efforts of the Contadora Group and introducing factors of tension between Nicaragua and Costa Rica with the purpose of creating an atmosphere unsuitable for dialogue and negotiations as civilized means for solving conflicts, and therefore for effectively restoring peace in the area.

The Nicaraguan Government presents its most formal and vigorous protest over these recent actions which coincide with the campaigns of threats being waged by the U.S. Administration against Nicaragua, and urges the Costa Rican authorities to capture, disarm, and remove from the border areas these armed groups and deport them from Costa Rica, since these armed groups are directed and supported by the U.S. Government and flagrantly violate international agreements freely signed by the Costa Rican Government, including its duties in matters of the right to asylum.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my consideration.

[Signed] Miguel E'Escoto Brockman, Nicaraguan foreign minister

ORTEGA COMMENTS ON MEETING WITH U.S. LEGISLATORS

PA172030 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution, has met with the National Assembly delegation from the heroic Vietnamese nation.

Moreover, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Nicaragua's president, met with members of a U.S. congressional delegation, from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The meeting lasted for over an hour, and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Saul Arana, head of the Foreign Ministry's North American Department, also attended. U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, who heads this delegation, said the purpose of the visit is to learn the truth about Nicaragua and not to negotiate. Replying to newsmen's questions, Comrade President Daniel Ortega made the following statement:

[Begin recording] Yes, we talked to the U.S. congressmen today on how the two chambers of Congress will vote on the $14 million, which has turned into a real political battle. To be sure, we reiterate our rejection of the ultimatum President Ronald Reagan has given us, through his so-called peace proposal. We reiterate Nicaragua's commitment to establish good relations with the United States, and to normalize relations with the United States. To achieve that goal, logically, U.S. aggression must end, and a serious dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua must begin. [end recording]

Commander Ortega also met with another delegation of four Republican congressmen and five top congressional officials. (?Codel Stomp) heads this delegation.

CIA, PENTAGON ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CSSR-MADE PLANES

PA141826 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Apr 85

[Text] President Ronald Reagan is alarmed because the specter of fighter planes on their way to Nicaragua is once again before him. It is recalled that last November the Central American crisis centered on the protests over and actual occurrences of constant violations of Nicaragua's airspace by the U.S. Government, which was reacting to reports that Soviet vessels were transporting to Nicaragua gigantic crates containing MIG combat aircraft. Reagan said that such a move was intolerable, and the strident overflights by "Blackbirds" followed, but in the end the senile president and his enormous intelligence machinery made fools of themselves because they were unable to confirm the arrival of the MIG's in Nicaragua.

The bull now charges again. The Pentagon and the CIA have told THE WASHINGTON POST that large containers containing CSSR-made L-39 fighter planes, better known as Albatroses, consigned to Nicaragua, have disappeared from the piers of the Bulgarian port of Burgas. They have speculated that the planes might be locked inside warehouses to throw off U.S. intelligence or that they might be on their way to Nicaragua. If those aircraft fall into the hands of the Nicaraguan Government, it may easily convert them into fighter-bombers to attack the counterrevolutionary bands, a State Department official has remarked. Fred Ikle, U.S. under secretary of defense, irresponsibly went beyond that statement, claiming that those L-39 Czechoslovak aircraft, along with the Soviet MIG-21's, will be used as shields [as heard] by the Marxist Sandinist government to attack its neighbor countries.

Meanwhile, critics of U.S. policy have said in Washington that the Albatroses and the MIG's are defensive aircraft that will not affect the military balance in the region, adding that the reports have been made on the eve of the opening of a new debate in the U.S. Congress on the resumption of U.S. aid to the counterrevolutionary bands, as requested by President Reagan. This is another false report aimed at pressuring Congress, one observer and critic of the senile president's policy in Central America, said.

MINISTER HENRY RUIZ DEPARTS FOR MEXICO 16 APRIL

PA170422 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz Hernandez, minister of foreign cooperation, left this morning for Mexico where he will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid discuss political and economic issues of mutual interest to both countries. The revolutionary leader was accompanied to the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, vice president of the Republic. Before leaving for Mexico, the minister of foreign cooperation met with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

ORTEGA CONGRATULATES PERU'S GARCIA ON ELECTION

PA172017 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra sent a congratulatory message yesterday to the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] candidate Alan Garcia, who won the presidential elections last Sunday. The revolutionary leader's message reads as follows:

Mr Alan Garcia, APRA presidential candidate.

Dear friend: On the occasion of your recent victory during the first round of presidential elections in Peru, I wish to state on behalf of the Nicaraguan people and government, our sincere congratulations during these momentous times when the Peruvian people have reasserted their faith in democratic values, and the principles of Latin American solidarity and unity which your party has always defended. Teh APRA victory represents hope for the Latin American peoples, who have closely followed the historic efforts exerted by the party in favor of democracy and respect for our nations' self-determination and independence.

Signed: Fraternally,
Daniel Ortega Saavedra

VIETNAMESE MEET WITH POLITICAL, UNION LEADERS

PA171906 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] The SRY National Assembly delegation has participated in several activities during its visit to our country. This morning the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation placed a floral wreath at the tomb of Commander in Chief Carlos Fonseca. The delegation members, led by National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, who signed the condolences book, thus conveying his admiration for the Sandinist people's revolution.

Afterward, the distinguished visitors from the heroic Vietnamese nation, visited the Heroes and Martyrs Park on the banks of Managua Lake. They then went to the 22 January Heroes and Martyrs' Building where the Nicaraguan National Assembly is located. Here, they met with National Assembly President Carlos Nunez Tellez, commander of the revolution, as well as with members of the diverse political parties which make up the Assembly.

In the afternoon, the visitors went to the Sanitary Products of Nicaragua, Inc. [Prosan]. Here the workers joyfully welcomed the visiting delegation.

The Vietnamese visitors then met with the factory manager and mambers of the (Daniel Siebes') Workers Union, who explained in detail the factory's operations. After the meeting, the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation and Prosan workers inspected the factory's installations.

The Vietnamese delegation is made up of a National Assembly vice chairman, a Communist Party Central Committee member, an alternate Assembly member, and a National Assembly's Planning and Budget Commission member. The workers presented the Vietnamese delegation with products manufactured at Prosan, as a sign of goodwill. At the end of the inspection, the National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho delivered a message to the Nicaraguan workers.

[Begin Nguyen Huu Tho recording -- his remarks are translated into Spanish] Despite difficult conditions, and the difficulties in obtaining raw materials, [words indistinct] caused by the aggression. I want to congratulate the workers. We are convinced that the Nicaraguan people, under the FSLN leadership, will achieve [words indistinct] victories, in defending your fatherland and in building a new Nicaragua. I want to present to you this picture of President Ho Chi Minh. [Workers chant: "Nicaragua and Vietnam united will be!"] [end recording]

Nguyen Huu Tho To Meet Arce

PA170441 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission, will meet with Dr Nguyen Huu Tho, SRV National Assembly chairman, at the FSLN's Directorate of International Relations. The meeting will also be attended by Xuan Thuy [name as heard], vice chairman the SRV Assembly; members of the SRV Communist Party Central Committee; and Vietnamese legislators. Here is Commander Arce:

[Begin recording] Through the resumption of brotherly exchanges between the SRV and Nicaragua, we hope to tighten the friendly ties that the two countries have been cultivating for years. Vietnam's example will continue to be a stimulus for us in the struggle that we wage today against U.S. imperialism. We hope that you and your worthy companions feel at home with your Nicaraguan brothers and that during these talks we can continue to find common links. We also hope to continue learning from Vietnam and that these lessons will help us go forward in our current struggle. [end recording]

In turn, Huu Tho expressed the Vietnamese people's greetings to the Nicaraguan people and said that at all times Nicaragua can rely on the solidarity of the world's peoples.

PRIEST REPORTEDLY EXPELLED FROM COUNTRY

PA180014 Paris AFP in Spanish 0153 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Managua, 16 Apr (AFP) -- A Spanish Catholic priest left Nicaragua on Monday amid insistent rumors that he was forced to leave the country due to pressures from the Sandinist government. For the past 5 years, Father Gregorio Raya Garcia had been working in the town of Acoyapa in the southeastern sector of Nicaragua. The rumors regarding his expulsion have not been confirmed by the government or the church. The two have remained silent regarding this case. However, a servant at the priest's house in Acoyapa, who has asked not to be identified, told AFP via telephone that "Father Raya told us he was leaving the country because the Sandinists were forcing him to do so."

A political opposition leader said that Father Raya was accused of helping youths evade the Patriotic Military Service draft and cross into Costa Rica.

Meanwhile, sources at the Spanish Embassy confirmed that Father Raya left the country a few hours ago, adding that they were not aware of his reason for leaving.

If these rumors are confirmed, Father Raya will be the eleventh priest who has been forced to leave Nicaragua in the past year.

DEFENSE MINISTRY ON CONTRA ATTACK IN CUKRA

PA172003 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Press bulletin issued by Defense Ministry; date not given]

[Text] The Somozist counterrevolutionaries have massacred civilians again. On this occasion, at 2000 on 14 April, these mercenaries attacked the town of Cukra, located 25 km south of Bluefields, Zelaya Department. Besides partially damaging a local National Development Bank branch, the mercenaries killed a bank employee, agronomist Francisco Javier Velazquez, his 2-year-old-son, Antonio Javier Velazquez, and injured nine other persons.

PRICE HIKES DECREED FOR GASOLINE, OIL BY-PRODUCTS

PA160444 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Apr 85

[Text] Managua -- Effective today, Monday, the price of gasoline has increased by 150 percent. Rumors of the increase had been circulating for some weeks, since the government established an exchange rate of 28 cordobas to the dollar for the purchase of oil in February. Prior to that, crude was brought at an exchange rate of 10 to 1.

Gasoline, which was formerly sold at 49 cordobas per gallon, will cost 125 cordobas beginning today. There were also hikes in the prices of other oil by-products and diesel, which will now be sold at 85 cordobas per gallon. Diesel formerly cost 26.25 cordobas per gallon.

Bottled gas price hikes apply mainly to the 100-lb cylinder, which is used in restaurants and in more affluent residential areas. The price of that cylinder increased 320 percent. The popular 10-lb cylinder increased 220 percent.

The increased fuel costs also affected electric power rates, since 50 percent of the electricity is obtained from thermal plants in Nicaragua. Electricity rates increased by 250 percent for both private and industrial consumers.

It was reported that Nicaragua imports approximately $560 million in oil annually, 50 percent of which comes from Mexico and the other 50 percent from the USSR.

The increase in the price of fuel is accompanied by a number of measures designed to reduce consumption of fuel both for transportation and for generating electricity.

Energy Production Affected

PA162336 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] The new oil prices greatly affect the production of energy because the product is not included in the 10 to 1 exchange rate, but in the 28.50 to 1 exchange rate. This was explained by Nicaraguan Energy Institute Deputy Director Ricardo Chavarria. He said that the current price per barrel of oil stored in the refinery is $35 per barrel and that our country is using up to 5 million barrels per year.

[Begin Chavarria recording] Oil and oil by-products do not fall under the 10 to 1 exchange rate but under the 28.50 to 1 exchange rate. Therefore, the price of oil directly affects to cost of generating, transporting, and distributing electricity. At present, oil, stored in the refinery, ready to be refined, to be processed, is costing us approximately $35 per barrel. This $35 includes all expenses to the moment this barrel enters the refinery. The consumption of 5 million barrels per year represents $175 million per year. If to this we add an additional $20 million for grease and lubricants we reach an approximate amount of $200 million per year. This is only to satisfy the country's oil needs. This $200 million equals 45 percent of our country's exports and 25 percent of our imports. Because the price of oil is so high, other products are affected; other products that are necessary for the country and its people. We have been experiencing a fast decline in trade. The prices of our exports have dropped constantly in comparison with the prices of our imports. [end recording]

COMBAT PLANES TO BE PURCHASED FROM CSSR

PA172255 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2200 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] Our internal resistance has reported that the nine terrorists will receive Czechoslovak-made combat planes. The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] internal resistance operating within the party-state-Army structure in Managua reports, through Voice of Sandino, the voice of freedom, that the nine killers of our people will purchase Czechoslovak-made combat planes shortly. These L-39 planes are the official training planes of the Warsaw Pact's air forces. They are equipped with cannons and can carry up to 1,000 lb of cargo. They are also equipped with air-to-air missiles.

This is how the nine servants of Soviet imperialism invest the money of the people. It is all used to continue killing the people. However, ARDE's heroic fighters -- workers, peasants, students -- assure them that regardless of the planes and tanks sent by Soviet imperialism, they will not be able to stop the victorious peasant insurrection.

At the hour of truth, the Marxist-Leninists will not have the necessary arms to defend their Castro revolution. The real Sandinist revolution is being forged in the central, south, and Atlantic areas of our homeland. We are struggling to install in our homeland a regime of freedom and not a regime of slavery, like the one the nine communist demons wish to impose on us.

Free fatherland or kill!

CASTRO INTERVIEW WITH ECUADORAN JOURNALISTS

FL171700 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0358 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Interview with President Fidel Castro by unidentified Ecuadoran journalists; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] We would like to know the topics of your talks with President Febres Cordero; how you have reconciled your two ideologies and differences in thinking in regard to various issues, especially issues involving Cuba and Ecuador.

[Castro] I want to begin by saying that I am very happy about the visit. Not only am I happy, but so is everyone who has dealt with the Ecuadoran delegation. Before the visit, I did not know President Febres Cordero personally but some comrades had spoken with him. Our education minister and vice president of the executive committee [Jose Ramon Fernandez] had attended his inauguration. He had the privilege of talking with him at length and he came away with a very good impression. He like the seriousness and frankness with which they discussed various issues. I had hoped that the president would be a person with whom I could converse and engage in dialogue and conversation, and that hope was fully gratified. From the moment we began to talk, it was with familiarity, and trust and with no malice. I had no prejudice and neither did he, which is interesting. I saw him as representing a sovereign country, which has glorious traditions and national honor. This was the impression that was conveyed by the Ecuadoran representative. This was evident as soon as he began to speak.

It is not difficult for me to communicate with him. He spoke for a position of honor and respect. I am pleased because he is very cultivated in his treatment of others. I observed the slightest details, and he even said thank you to a comrade who opened the door for him. That is a very cultivated and considerate way of treating people.

I noticed how he is concerned with detail. There is no issue that does not interest him in any area that is under discussion. He is a respectful, frank person. As you have seen, he is not the type with whom you must use diplomatic language. We are dealing with an open person who does not hide things. And I immediately understand this type of person. He knows how I think. I know how he thinks.

It has occurred to me during this meeting that there are so many common interests among Latin American countries and Third World countries. We must bear in mind that this has at least one advantage. I deal with many people in the world. Sometimes they speak one language, sometimes another. You do not know how wonderful it is to be able to talk to someone in one's own language.

I want to add that the president and the Ecuadoran delegation and you journalists reflect a certain character. I detect in the Ecuadorean -- and every nationality has its characteristics -- a great sense of honor, love of country, and pride in country, along with a great capacity for treating people in a cultured way. Finally, I really have a good impression from all of the meetings.

You have asked a question about the topics of the talks and I will give you an answer. We discussed many issues.

[Question] Commander, would you confirm that the personal attitudes of heads of state can lead to communications among countries? Do these attitudes transcend influential ideologies to their effect on the behavior of leaders, especially with regard solving the current problems in Latin America?

[Castro] No one knows the importance of personal contact. All men are not equal. It is also true that not everyone who takes on political power is the most capable person. I talk with many leaders. Generally, they are magnificent people. But individual characteristics are very important, especially if the person is honest, whatever his political convictions. It is important that he be able to discuss and exchange opinions on any issue. I have dealt with many distinguished individuals who are intelligent and cpaable and I have enough experience to evaluate people and I can say that the president of Ecuador is a person with whom personal contact is valuable. And I can talk with him. In general, whether the results are good or bad, contact is very important, that is, personal contact.

Ideology is a subject we hardly discussed, because he has great respect for what we have done and I have great respect for your country and your system. Ideology is not an issue. It cannot be an issue of discussion. Whatever separates us, whether it is the socialist or capitalist concept, cannot be an issue for discussion because he is not going to try to persuade me that we should do things one way or another. Nor would I try in the least to influence or persuade him to change from his way of thinking to another.

There are so many issues of common interest that we could be here 10 days and not even talk about ideology. Perhaps, it would serve our interest to ask how things are done, why they are done, and how they should be done so we could have a better idea of how problems are viewed by a Latin American leader. And he too could have a better idea of how we approach issues and how we do things because we have had contact with the people everywhere in the country and he could appreciate what we do and the nature of our work.

But I wanted to say something about this. Latin American countries are countries of the Third World, countries that sturggle for development, countries that struggle to advance. All new problems of international economic order are very important to our two countries. If the price of sugar drops because of dumping or because it being subsidized, it affects you Ecuadoreans and it affects us. It affects all social sectors. It affects the canecutter, the sugar technician, the refinery owner -- it affects everyone and it affects us. There are opportunities to study these problems and determine their causes. Now then, protectionism affects you and it affects us. Unbalanced trade, in which our products become cheaper and what we import becomes more expensive affects us. High interest rates affect us. So there is an infinite number of things which are common and of interest to all countries, independent of their social system or their ideology. What do we expect? That we are all going to become capitalists or that we are all going to become socialists to struggle against various situations and economic relations that keep our countries poor and our economies underdeveloped?

Colonialism is one of the primary causes of underdevelopment. We know that almost all the resources were removed from Latin America and used to industrialize Europe -- gold and silver. And we were left poor because all that wealth was produced with what? With the labor of the natives. In Cuba the natives disappeared. There were 200,000 of them and only a few remained looking for gold in the mines. Slaves came from Africa to Cuba and other places and worked a long time. For centuries, our people produced wealth and with that wealth the industrial development of Europe was financed. The financial contributions that we made for centuries had much to do with the industrialization of Europe and even the United States.

These things are common among many nations and we canot wait until there is socialism in all our countries or until we return to capitalism to sit down and discuss those things for which we should struggle because our peoples, hundreds of millions of people, are the ones who suffer when the price of sugar is depressed or the price of meat, copper, or any mineral, or coffee, cacao goes down. Everyone suffers, no matter what type of social regime he lives under. If a bulldozer costs four, five, or seven times more, we suffer. We suffer from the underdevelopment, which in many cases, is common to our peoples. And in other matters, there are other common experiences. You have experiences in some areas and we have them in others. Exchanges of opinion are very important.

Well, the first exchange we had was on farming. We are both farmers. The president [Leon Febres Cordero] and I are farmers. We are both interested in cattle farming. [Castro says to unidentified person:] You will get your chance. [laughter] We are both interested in cattle-ranching. Both of us. Very much. Breeding, milk production, met production. I have been working on this for more than 20 years. Now I am back where I started in the crossing of Holstein and Zebu to seek a solution to the problem of milk and meat production. We are very interested in this. Some cattle ranchers buy animals here because we have accumulated great breeding potential in a few years, and some ranchers buy a few animals for reproduction. So we talked a great deal about agriculture, technical matters, in which our experiences could be useful.

We talked a lot about health problems. We explained all our experiences. The president if very interested in a program of medical aid to children, especially poor children. He is firm in his resolve to cary out his program to make medical care available to all children up to age 12, to provide them with hospital care when they need it. On this matter, we also have long experience, which is useful.

We also have experience in education matters, with which to solve problems. In the sugar industry, we have experience. Sugar matters are also important to Ecuador. Ecuador has interesting experience in the sugar industry and in other fields. There are many possibilities for development in the field of exchanging knowledge. We have over 100 scientific institutions. We are introducing new products in the fight against tropical diseases. This experience can be useful in cooperation in the field of medical matters.

We discussed at great length the development of trade, beginning with President Febres Cordero's very popular intention of developing exchanges among the Latin American countries and among the countries of the Third World, and seeking new markets and a solution to the desperate situation in many countries. We discussed the development of exchanges and what we could do to bring it about. We talked about what we could buy and sell. What do they produce? It is very important to know everything about what each country markets. Well, we would like to give preference to Latin American countries in our trade. If we buy fish meal, it is better to buy it directly from a Latin American country than to buy it from Europe. It is better to do that with any other agricultural product, or industrial product. We are willing to develop this economic relationship. We discussed this a great deal, especially these possibilities and ways and mechanism to carry it out. The volume of trade is not as important as the principle, which we talked about a great deal. Trade and cooperation among Third World and Latin American countries are issues that we discussed a great deal.

We discussed history and geography of our countries. We also talked a lot about the historical links between Eloy Alfaro [president of Ecador in 1890's], Marti, Maceo. Because there is a consensus that Ecuador had the most brilliant attitude and Eloy Alfaro was the Latin American who showed us the most solidarity, who was almost unique in this because he was so outstanding and went so far as to donate his salary as president to help the cause of our independence at the end of the last century.

Alfaro is admired and beloved in our country. It was very beautiful to see our two flags together at the ceremony. They were also together during our struggle for independence. To view the two flags and to hear the two national anthems as Marti did and to pay homage to Eloy Alfaro. That is really a beautiful historical event.

We have very much in common. We Cubans are very similar to Ecuadoreans, especially those of the tropical area of Guayaquil. There is a great deal of similarity in the architecture, the nature and open character of the people and their expressiveness. We talked about all this. Of course we talked about international politics. Who could imagine that we would spend so much time together -- how long were we together? I did not keep track but it must be more than 25 or 30 hours. We spoke about Central America.

[Question] Our president was interested in Central America and he said you were interested in Reagan's proposal for a solution [passage indistinct].

[Castro] Yes. We talked and exchanged opinions and I gave him all the information I have. We talked with mutual trust. We agreed on our full support for the Contadora measures. We agreed on the need to make an effort to find a political solution to the situation in Central America, to the different problems there. We were very much in agreement on that. I believe I should not be expressing my opinion on Reagan's proposal because it seems to me that the interested country is Nicaragua. We should not be expressing opinions, it seems to me, not publicly and not even privately. It is the Nicaraguans who must give their opinion. What if we give one opinion and they give another? We would be hindering a solution. The policy we have followed with the Nicaraguan revolution, a policy of support, of solidarity, of respect -- when they take a specific measure, we support them; if they sign the Contadora peace document we will support them -- we pledge that where we are concerned, that we will carry out everything they decide. We will never make a unilateral decision because that would not be loyal. We have doctors, technicians, there are even military advisers. We cannot take the unilateral decision to tell them: Look, this seems like a good idea to us, we are going to withdraw our cooperation. Now then, if they decide that to reach an agreement our cooperation should be withdrawn, they know they have our support. And when they hear things, they are the ones that should speak out freely. Even if there were something that we thought was not perfect, we follow the principle of supporting them. Our friendship and trust are based on this, on absolute respect.

For this reason, I do not want to express an opinion on the Nicaragua situation, and the ones who must speak out publicly and express their opinions should be Nicaraguans and not us. I hope you understand our position.

[Question] Commander, the positions of the Cuban and Uruguayan presidents on the foreign debt of the Latin American and underdeveloped countries are totally different. I wanted to ask why Cuba renegotiated (?and under) what conditions, and why this position of requesting a moratorium for the remainder of the Latin American debt is being taken? What would be the results of achieving a moratorium?

[Castro] In the first place I am going to say that it is not correct to say that there are totally different opinions. Because what he has said, I have said, and many Latin American leaders, and they are saying it more and more -- I read the news dispatches every day -- and they are going to say it at the meeting of the IMF and the World Bank, and I read that news with great interest, which is that a solution to the problem must be found. Everyone agrees on this.

Everyone agrees the debt is an unbearable burden that is going to make our countries more backward and promote underdevelopment. Some think one formula should be adopted and some favor another. But all, all without exception, not only in Latin America but also in Africa and Asia, agree that a solution to this problem must be found.

I have focused on the problem. I have made arithmetical, mathematical calculations, and my opinion, which you all know and which is unvarying, is that it is unpayable. How it is to be handled is something else. I think a lot of formulas and ideas will have to be studied. I say that, in accordance with my calculations and analyses, it cannot be paid and should be canceled. All the principal Latin American leaders say they are not willing to sacrifice development and their peoples by adopting regressing measures to pay off the debt.

There are a lot of people who are thinking and working out their ideas, and not only in the Third World. The German finance minister has said this is very serious, that in 1985 the entire Third World debt is $970 billion, and there is no solution. He has said almost what I have said: There is no solution. I said there are going to be social explosions. The man said it in another way: There are going to be revolutions, [word indistinct]. He has said almost the same thing.

The ideas I have are usually transmitted to all leaders of all nations, in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and industrialized countries. I have transmitted in writing to all of them all my points of view, the same materials, and there are more materials because I continue working on the subject. I have my own ideas and they are consistent with my calculations. I cannot say: Gentlemen, according to mathematics, it cannot be paid. And then say: Gentlemen, a moratorium must be declared and payments begin after 10 years. I would not be consistent. I suppose the heads of state as they become more unified, and they are becoming more unified all the time... [rephrases] First, the Cartagena Consensus President Febres Cordero favored a meeting of all the heads of state to draw up a policy; President Alfonsin did the same thing in Mexico. That is, new initiatives are presented.

In Washington, representatives of the Cartagena Consensus met to draw up a document for the meeting of the IMF and World Bank on the 17th and 18th. There are new initiatives all the time and I am sure more will be examined in an attempt to arrive at common criteria. In time, I suppose the leaders will decide on a moratorium. It has been a venerable institution since the time of Roman Law. It is as old as the law itself and is very respected. They will draw up their formulas. I simply reasoned and reached some conclusions. But if there is a moratorium, this will be wonderful. Then there can be another, and another. In this way the same objectives can be reached by different paths.

If a 10-year moratorium is declared, what we owe in 10 years will be -- instead of $360 billion -- what I have calculated will, with present interest rates, be more than $1.4 trillion. With every day and year that passes, mathematics insists stubbornly, obsessively, on proving that it is unpayable. I am not going to contradict mathematics. This is not ideological but scientific, if you will, because it is mathematical.

[Question] Would Cuba be willing to lead this group?

[Castro] Lead? What for? What do we have to lead? Nothing at all. We expound ideas. We have been doing it for years. Before the 1979 catastrophe happened... [rephrases] If you look up my speech at the United Nations following the sixth summit meeting of the nonaligned countries, when I attended the United Nations as president of the Nonaligned Movement and gave a speech, which would be worthwhile to get from the archives. I set out the problem that is happening now: the need to cancel the debt of the countries in greatest difficulty and grant better repayment conditions to the others. I laid out the problem again in 1983 in New Delhi. There is even a small book that contains the report I presented at the United Nations. I have been working for years.

The problem will only get worse and it is no longer possible to suggest what we recommended in 1979 because the problem is so grave now that, if in 1979 mathematics proved that it was necessary to cancel the debt of the poorest countries because they would never be able to pay, and give better repayment terms to the countries that had greater resources, today the disease is so grave that it is now a surgical problem. As soon as the problem becomes surgical, different recommendations must be made. I see clearly, because mathematics tell me that there is no alternative to canceling the debt, and that the debt is unpayable. Furthermore, I have set out the consequences of what is going to happen, with total clarity and total conviction. One does not live for many years observing events as we have without learning. In other interviews I laid out what is going to happen in the United States, like that colossal expenditure it is making.

We have no interest in leading anything. We have been (?defending ourselves) for many years out of principle, conviction, a sense of justice. We don't want to be exploited.

You have asked about Cuba's renegotiating its debt. The Cuban debt is very small. It barely affects us. It totals about $3 billion, and 85 percent of our trade is with the socialist countries, where we sell our products at high prices. Furthermore, we have no financial problems with them. Our debt has been renegotiated for 10, 15, 20 years without interest. This is marvelous. It is what I say the industrialized world should do with the nations of Latin America, Asia, and Africa. We have none of their problems.

The only thing these bankers did to us was blockade us. We have argued with them and honored our obligations. The debt hardly affects us. If it is 15 percent, it hurts, but it is only 15 percent. The injury is slight compared with the gigantic injury. Our development is guaranteed up to the year 2000: Our plans, how much we are going to increase production, how many dwellings, social development, and development will continue at a high rate in the priority areas of public health, education, sports, culture. In health, education, and sports we lead all Third World countries, over 100 countries. And we are ahead of some of the industrialized countries. We are very near the United States in health standards. They have an average of 12 deaths for every 1,000 live births. Of course, fewer whites die, more Chicanos, and more U.S. blacks. And we have 15 [as heard] we are catching up to them. We have caught up to them and are going to pass them. Our future, as I said, is guaranteed, assured. We are struggling almost altruistically here, increasing awareness in Third World countries and also in the industrialized countries. I send the same message to all, without exception. We are also in better shape to do this.

If a country has to negotiate with the IMF every day, it cannot do any other planning because the IMF squeezes it.

I know how a lot of people think but they are not free to express themselves. They have to negotiate every day. If they were to speak out this way, they would get squeezed. No one can squeeze us because we in no way dependent on the IMF; we are free to speak and we do speak. I have spoken a lot. I began 6 years ago and am going to continue to speak out because my arguments are irrefutable. I have been able to prove with precise data that they are stealing from us when they pay us less and less for our products, when they charge us higher interest rates, when they overvalue the dollar, when the money flees our countries as a consequent of U.S. monetary policy. They are taking $45 billion unjustly, part in money and part because they do not pay us what they should for our products. Furthermore, of the $70 billion that (?is leaving) Latin America, about $20 billion could be considered legitimate or normal interest. I should not say "legitimate" because a Muslim considers interest to be theft. But within the Western concept, we say all right, normal interest up to $70 billion. But I believe we are in such a situation, that they have plundered us so much that not even this interest is normal. It can be paid. They owe us much more than Third World countries owe them.

[Question] What is the greatest achievement of the Cuban revolution to date?

[Castro] In the first place, a united people, very united, with deep political culture. If you go to the United States and ask an average American where Ecuador is located, I assure you that 80 or 85 percent will answer that it is in Central America, or that they don't know, or will as: What country is that? I never heard of it. With so much propaganda and publicity, and so much fantasy, and gangster and race car movies, the average citizen has no opportunity to learn where Ecuador is located or if there is such a country. The same things happens with Third World countries. Where is it located? They would just as well answer in Central America as in Africa. Perhaps 15 percent knows where it is. Ask any Cuban where Ecuador is located, where Ethiopia is located, where the Sahara is, or the Middle East, where South Yemen is located, where Cambodia is located, where Laos is, where Easter Island is, tiny, lost in the Pacific. A Cuban knows all this and he knows what happened there, and he knows world history, he has a high level of political awareness.

The average educational level of our workers is now the ninth grade and is still going up. One hundred percent of our children attend school unless they cannot physically move from their homes. We even have schools for children with problems, for thousands of students with hearing or sight problems or any other problem we have schools to teach them, to prepare them for life. More than 90 percent of all children between the ages of 6 and 16 are in school. More than 200,000 students attend the universities. We have 20,500 physicians, up from the 3,000 who left us, because there were 6,000 and the United States took 3,000. In addition to all this, 5,000 enter medical school each year. We will graduate 2,436 this year and starting in 1988 we will graduate 3,500. From 1991 to the year 2000 we will graduate 50,000 physicians to have the best medical system of any country in the world. We will even be able to cooperate with other countries. This is our program for evolution.

I have a united people, politically aware, patriotic, capable of defending itself. The greatest glory is having resisted the colossus of the North for 26 years, without ever having trembled. We are ready to exact a high price to defend the revolution, we are ready to such an extreme -- as they well know -- that a military adventure here would be a disaster. These are spiritual, moral achievements. One does not see beggars, barefoot children, abandoned children. We do not have prostitution, gambling, unemployment. It is a very large collection of things. But the greatest merit is, I believe, to have resisted the colossus for years without trembling, and to have gone ahead in the middle of the blockade and have these people that you have all seen in all their force, their unity, their culture, their enormous effort.

Yesterday we saw impressive young people. They were doing construction work valued at $2 billion. Since we have no great rivers, dams, nuclear power plants, a refinery costing (?$100) million, and a lot of other works, sustained development. [as heard]. Twenty-five years ago we could not even dream of building a small factory, we had to call in U.S. firms to build it. Now we build colossal works with Cuban brigades, Cuban technicians, Cuban engineers, and even many with Cuban plans. Our sugar mills are now built with Cuban plans and more than 60 percent of the equipment is built in Cuba. And under what conditions? Under a complete blockade. We have advanced relatively more than any other Third World country in these 25 years, and there are the data, the facts. We have a very united people, very patriotic, and very revolutionary.

[Question] Commander, how do you view the future in Latin America?

[Castro] Because I am an optimist and not a pessimist, I see a good future for Latin America. If I were a pessimist, I would say hell awaits us. But a people does not make its decisions until the moments of crisis.

Normally, important decisions are not made for philosophical reasons. For how many centuries was Latin America a Spanish colony? We were less fortunate than you on that score. We were a colony for a century longer. But you were a tranquil part of the vice royalties. Things remained calm until a crisis occurred, the crisis in Europe. The invasion of Spain by Napoleon. But the historical conditions were right at that time for nations to come into being with their own personalities, their own intellectuals, their own leaders, and suddenly they became independent, when no one was expecting it.

It began almost as an act of loyalty to Spain because no one was going to swear loyalty to the brother of Napoleon because if Napoleon was an adventurer, his brother was an idiot. When France tried to impose an idiot on Spain, the Spanish themselves said: We must set up a junta; and the juntas in Latin America ended up being independent nations.

Bolivar intended to unite the nations and was unable to do so. We know that the great powers, the United States, England did all they could to keep the area fragmented. Well, now there is a serious crisis. I believe that this debt is worse than the brother of Napoleon on the throne of Spain. [laughter] And I will tell you something else. The economic crisis is worse than all that because the Latin American thinks. We have millions of thinking people. Everywhere you find writers, filmmakers, highly-trained people, doctors, engineers, economists, in spite of all those who left. Everywhere it is evident that people are aware -- the masses, the workers, the peasants, the middle classes and the professionals.

The economic crisis affects all of us. If we were all in a boat together, it would not matter if you were a Muslim, Christian, Protestant, Calvinist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, utopian Communist, social democrat, or extremist. If we are all in the boat and the boat begins to sink, it is certain we would all do everything possible to save the boat. If it sinks, we would do everything possible to reach shore -- the life rafts, boats, everything -- and if we reach shore, how would we sustain ourselves until we are rescued?

That is where we are now. That is what I am saying. More important than ideology is the boat that is sinking, water is entering from all sides. This promotes unity of action. The history of Europe has more wars than that of any other continent. They spent about 5 centuries making war on one another. Now they have a European Economic Community. None of the countries could conceive of trying to live without the Community with one of them selling wine, another wheat, another meat, another olive oil, another automobiles, and other things.

They are satisfied. If you asked them if they could live as they did in the last century, they would say no. Would any of you be able to leave the community? No. On the contrary, the countries that are not members are trying to enter. Portugal and Spain have made great efforts and now they cannot exist -- they who love us Latins so much -- without joining the community. And they are going to follow the community's policies.

Well then, the wars in Europe have ended. There is a European Parliament in the European Economic Community. And we, the countries of the Third World, small in many cases, lacking development, blocked from international markets by dumping, blocked by protectionism, must unite as the Europeans did. I believe we will develop forms of economic integration and little by little we will develop political integration. There is much time ahead -- at best within a century. But for now, unity and action will come about.

That is the way of history. It is common. Who was going to tell those crazy Europeans, who were always making war... [rephrases] You have heard of the Thirty Year War and the Hundred Years War. They tried to divide up little islands of the world, saying Jamaica is mine, this is yours. They all tried to claim this or that island in the Caribbean or the Pacific. They claimed everything.

I remember when I was in the fifth grade, I saw a political map and it was nearly all red. I did not even know of the existence of communism. If someone saw such a map today, he would say it was a communist plan because almost all the map was red -- Australia, Canada, New Zealand, India. But it had nothing to do with communism. It was the British Empire, which was colored red on the map. The Portuguese Empire was also huge including Angola and Mozambique. Portugal would fit many times in the area of the colonies it held a short time ago. Of course, a country -- many of whose inhabitants could neither read nor write -- was master of enormous parts of the globe. Decolonization occurred and the colonies are now independent. There is change. No one can oppose change. It comes one way or another. Great changes. My opinion is optimistic about the future.

[Reporters] Thank you.

[Castro] Well, I have not been able to answer everyone, but I have done all I could. I have tried to speak very quickly.

MALMIERCA MEETS WITH MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM

FL180100 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] Ethiopia's President Mengistu Haile Mariam today met in Addis Ababa with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca who paid a 4-day official and friendly visit to that African country.

Mengistu and Malmierca discussed the existing fraternal ties between Cuba and Ethiopia and explored the main problems of the African continents and other regions of the world.

GRENADA

ADVICE SOUGHT ON CUBA'S EQUIPMENT CLAIM

FL170337 Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 16, CANA -- The Grenada Government has sought private legal advice on a writ filed by Cuba in the high court here over ownership of construction equipment, government sources said today.

The sources said Prime Minister Herbert Blaize had written Professor Ralph Carnegie, a law lecturer at the University of the West Indies, seeking his opinion on Havana's claim to tractors, trucks, and other equipment used in constructing the international airport at Point Salines. Professor Carnegie is a member of a government-appointed commission reviewing the Constitution.

The government has failed to agree on how to respond to the writ, which seeks the return of or compenation for the equipment provided to the ousted left-wing New Jewel Movement (NJM) administration. The sources said the state's legal advisers have said the writ should not be contested but some members of the Blaize cabinet strongly oppose this opinion. They support the view of the interim administration which ruled Grenada for a year before last December's general election which brought Blaize to power. The interim regime had told Havana that based on documents governing the arrival of the equipment here, some of the items were paid for by the Grenada Governments, while the others were gifts.

Cuba was building the airport before its workplace [as received] was expelled in the wake of the U.S.-led invasion in October 1983. The project is being completed with U.S. and Canadian funds.

GULP TO CREATE NEW IMAGE FOR NEXT ELECTIONS

FL172155 Bridgetown CANA in English 1738 GMT 17 Apr 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 17, CANA -- Former Grenada Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy said today that he is purging his Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) is in the process of putting together a stronger executive involving grassroots people, as well as attempting to woo more young people.

The GULP dominated the political life of this island nation for three decades before it was toppled from power in a March 1979 left-wing coup. The party won only one seat in last December's general elections to return the island to Westminister parliamentary democracy, but refused to take it up, alleging the poll was fraudulent.

Gairy did not contest the election and the result seemed to suggest that the party was in decline. In February, four top GULP members broke ranks and formed a new party with its first chairman as opposition leader Marcel Peters, who defied Gairy and took the GULP seat in Parliament.

I think this is a time for purging because the time is coming when we would have fair elections. Let us purge the old weeds out. Let us get them out, and get people who would have a stronger sense of commitment and dedication (to the party), said Gairy, who has dominated the party with an iron grip.

Gairy said thatin past years he had made the mistake of allowing persons to enter the party only to contest general elections. We don't want that (anymore). We want people to come in as a dedicated member of the party, and when the time comes for elections the party selects you to run, he said.

Gairy added that he was still committed to the view that fresh elections would be held in Grenada before the end of this year.

The ruling New National Party of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize holds 14 of the 15 seats in Parliament.

JAMAICA

PRIME MINISTER SAYS 'NO ALTERNATIVE TO IMF'

FL111628 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 29 Mar 85 p 3

[Text] Vienna, 27 March (CANA-REUTER) -- Jamaica will adhere to the International Monetary Fund's [IMF] financial austerity guidelines and will negotiate a new agreement with the Fund when the present one expires next month, Prime Minister Edward Seaga said today.

"There is no alternative to the IMF,absolutely none, and no one with any sense would dispute this," he said in an interview while here for the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Seaga's conservative administration has allied itself closely with the IMF since his election in 1980, when he defeated socialist Michael Manley and inherited an economy on the point of collapse.

However, the economy is still stagnant, sapped by a prolonged slide in bauxite earnings and a chronic foreign exchange shortage. Unemployment is officially put at 25 per cent and cutbacks in food subsidies and social spending made at the IMF's behest have hit the country's poorest classes hard.

Seaga said an IMF mission was now in Jamaica reviewing the current 143-million-dollar programme. Discussions would start immediately on a new agreement, which would probably be for half the present amount.

While Jamaica had failed a recent IMF financial progress test on debt repayments, it had passed the Fund's standards on other counts "with flying colours" Seaga said. "We have achieved the single greatest adjustment of any country in the world so far," he said. The budget deficit had been halved as a proportion of gross domestic product and a 300-million-dollar net loss in foreign exchange had been reversed.

Seaga rejected criticisms by the opposition People's National Party that continuing austerity had failed to revive productivity and had led only to social pressures. He said the worst effects of the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, which fell by 40 per cent against the U.S. dollar over the past year, had now been felt, with the sacrifice of higher fuel and food import costs offset by export competivity.

Although there had been demonstrations in January against fuel price rises, he said Jamaicans were beginning to appreciate the improvements. "Our policy of diversifying the economy away from dependence on bauxite has led to a reduction in unemployment to 25.2 per cent and a dramatic recovery in new investments," he said.

Tourism had risen by half over the past four years to become the main foreign exchange earner while agriculture had become Jamaica's top growth sector with new export crops, he added.

Explains Monetary, Credit Measures

FL111825 Bridgetown CANA in English 1809 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 11, CANA -- Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga says his tight credit squeeze will be relaxed only when the country's foreign exchange earnings improved sufficiently to take pressure off the value of the local dollar. So long as the export prospects of Jamaica are worsened, it will be necessary to maintain monetary and credit measures which mop up excess liquidity in the financial system and permit fundable imports within available foreign exchange -- cash and credit, Seaga told Parliament last night.

Seaga, who is also finance minister, revealed that consumer credit for the just ended fiscal year, contracted 25.6 per cent, 4.4 per cent below the 30 per cent target. Credit to the productive sector increased 22.6 per cent, marginally higher than the government target.

Seaga introduced a tight credit regime in January 1983 with the aim of keeping overall credit expansion to within 12 per cent. The government last month further tightened the screws in an effort to defend the value of the Jamaican dollar, which is set at twice weekly foreign auctions run by the Central Bank. Banks were ordered to hold their loan portfolio at the level of March 8, and they were told to increase their liquid assets ratio from 44 to 48 per cent and move up their cash reserves one point to 15 per cent. Interest rates also moved up sharply.

The reduction of credit will choke off demand for goods and services, ease requirement for foreign exchange, and help to stabilize the value of the Jamaican dollar without what the Seaga administration considers bureaucratic controls. The U.S. dollar is now worth J5.50 dollars as the local currency has plummeted under the floating exchange system demanded by the IMF, since an initial 43 per cent devaluation in late 1983 when the exchange rate was J1.78 dollars to one U.S. Seaga has resisted calls for a return to a fixed exchange rate and allocating foreign exchange on a priority basis.

The cutback in the output of bauxite and alumina as a result of the withdrawal (from Jamaica) of Reynolds and Alpart and the possible closure of another alumina plant can only be redressed by incremental export earnings from tourism and non-traditional agro-industry and manufacturing sectors, the prime minister said. Otherwise, every effort must be made to contain demand within available foreign exchange earnings and credit. Without such containment, Seaga said, we would be faced with significant movements in the exchange and inflation rate at a most severe level.

Seaga said that early in the year when inflows of foreign exchange averaged U.S. 3 million dollars daily, the exchange rate hovered between J4.90 and J4.97 dollars for one U.S. dollar, but plummeted when the inflows reduced after gas price demonstrations here in January. The Central Bank, he said, had been forced to support the auction to the tune of U.S. 10 million dollars and could risk no further intervention for fear of not meeting IMF international reserves targets.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

ARUBA PLANS TO ADOPT NEW CURRENCY IN 1986

FL161542 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 16 Apr 85

[Text] The Caribbean Island of Aruba is going to adopt its own currency. Beginning in January of next year, the American dollar will replace its Dutch Antilles guilder as medium of exchange until the new coinage comes out. As is now the case with the Antilles guilder, Aruba's new coinage will be linked in value to the dollar.